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Islamic Affairs

OIC Foreign Ministers Hold Talks on Bosnia Crisis

Iran's Velayati Meets Counterparts

LD2207180995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Malaysia, and Bangladesh met our country's [Iranian] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in Geneva, today to discuss the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A source close to these talks has announced that this meeting will be a framework for implementing the decisions made last night by the Islamic contact group, especially in relation to holding a consultative meeting of political-military officials from Islamic countries. This source added: In view of the regrettable results of the London conference, political observers attach great importance to this morning's meeting between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, because Malaysia and Bangladesh are among the Islamic countries which have supported the Bosnian people in connection with the dispatch of military forces in the framework of UN peacekeeping troops and Iran, for its part, is the main supporter of the wronged Bosnian people.

Sources closed to the meeting of the Islamic contact group are saying: The people and government of Bosnia are, now more than ever, hoping for assistance from Islamic countries and they will be able to resist the attacks of Serb forces only if they receive this assistance.

Pakistan Urges 'Massive' Air Strikes

BK2207091995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has urged the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] to take concrete action to meet the deteriorating situation in Bosnia as a result of Serb aggression. He was addressing the emergency session of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia in Geneva yesterday. The meeting has been called to articulate the OIC response to the Bosnian crisis. The foreign minister said we must reflect the firm commitment of OIC member countries to help our Bosnian brethren in their just cause. These actions must be credible and realistic. He added everything possible must be done to reverse the recent occupation of the UN safe area of Srebrenica by the Serbs and ensure protection of Zepa and other UN declared safe areas.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali urged NATO to conduct massive air strikes against Serbian positions in Srebrenica, around Zepa, and on Serbian forces impeding humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and other besieged populations. The foreign minister expressed Pakistan's support for the French proposal to dispatch a rapid reaction force to stop Serb aggression in Bosnia. This rapid reaction force should be strengthened through the commitment of contingents from the OIC countries. He said the OIC should ask for a fact-finding mission to trace 13,000 people who are still missing from Srebrenica and the immediate release of 4,000 Bosnian men being kept in Serbian concentration camps. The foreign minister warned the international community that if the Serbian aggression were allowed to prevail, it would imply the total abrogation of international order based on the principles of the UN charter, leading to far-reaching implications for world peace. He regretted that the credibility of the Security Council and the major world powers has been seriously eroded by their inaction in Bosnia.

Ministers Say Not 'Legally Bound' by Embargo

LD2207234195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 22 Jul — The foreign ministers of the contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina set up by the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] have said that the OIC member states do not consider themselves legally bound to abide by the unlawful and unjust arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is a UN member, since it is victim of Serb aggression.

In a statement issued at the end of the meeting held in Geneva two days ago, the ministers said that the burden of justifying the legality of maintaining the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina rested on the shoulders of the Security Council.

The foreign ministers also strongly condemned the invasion by the Serb aggressors of the UN-designated safe areas of Srebrenica, their attacks on other areas, and the acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, rape, and the inhuman actions to which the civilian population was subjected at the hands of the Serb aggressors in a blatant violation of the Security Council resolution, all the rules of civilized behavior, law, and morality.

The foreign ministers of the OIC contact group also expressed their disappointment with and utmost concern over the failure of the United Nations to carry out its mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They said the current devastating situation prevailing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which results from the Serbs' hostile policy of genocide, was due to a large extent to the unjustified and unlawful embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the failure to strictly apply the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, namely Serbia and Montenegro, the failure of the international conference on Yugoslavia to effectively monitor the embargo imposed on the Bosnian Serbs, the continued intention of the main UN Security Council members not to make any move, and the empty promises made by the main political forces involved in the mediation for the achievement of a just peace.

In its statement, the ministerial meeting called on the international community to embark on an immediate and decisive action particularly at the UN Security Council so that it can restore its credibility on the question of defending the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They urged the use of force to stop the Serbian aggression and the recovery of the territory which had been taken by the Serbs by force and the relentless and continuous application of the Serbian policy of extermination and ethnic cleansing.

They also called on the international community to use all methods possible including those which are specified by the UN Security Council for the purpose of defending the enclaves of Zepa and Bihac, pointing out that if this had not been realized, they will use measures which are commensurate with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

They also called for the restoration of the status of safe area to the town of Srebrenica and the protection of Gorazde, Bihac, Sarajevo, and Tuzla as these are safe areas specified by the UN and called for halting Serbian aggression in other regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for ensuring that the Serbs accept the plan of the international contact group in accordance with what had been proposed.

The statement of the ministerial meeting of the contact committee formed by the OIC which is concerned with Bosnia-Herzegovina demanded from the UN Security Council — being the main international machinery concerned with guaranteeing the international peace and security — to help the peaceful plan of the international contact group and in accordance with which realize the recovery of the areas which had been designated by the UN and which had been occupied and ethnically cleansed by those who call themselves the Bosnian Serbs.

They also demanded that all forms of support and assistance be given to the joint efforts which have been made by the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in defending their sovereignty and the safety of their territories and all forms of support for the sons of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement stressed the readiness of the OIC member-states to contribute to strengthening the international protection forces or to military arrangements that would be agreed to on a bilateral or collective basis and in this connection it expresses its readiness to undertake a greater role in commanding the international protection force and the practical frameworks.

The statement said that in the event of the international protection forces being withdrawn, the OIC member states would consider retaining their military units in Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the arrangements which would be made with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and with whatever agrees with the sovereignty and safety of Bosnia-Herzegovina republic and the integrity of its territories.

The statement of the ministerial meeting stressed the need to create an international alliance embracing the member-states, for cooperation with the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in exercising its right to defend itself unilaterally and collectively in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The statement urged the international community, including the member states, to intensify their efforts for applying a greater measure of pressure in order to effectively close the borders between the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — also in order to apply pressure on the Belgrade regime. This would include the possibility of severing relations with it so that it accepts the unconditional exchange of recognition of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

In its statement, the ministerial meeting of the OIC member-states considered that the policy of appeasement followed by some members of the UN Security Council towards the Serbian policy of aggression and extermination will have dire consequences and expose international peace and security to greater danger, and it will have negative results on the efforts made for achieving a settlement by negotiations.

The OIC member states renewed in the statement of the ministerial meeting the resolve to continue the strict implementation of the current sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — and demanded that the UN Security Council ensure the full implementation of the sanctions by all countries.

They also demanded that urgent financial and humanitarian assistance be gathered to ease the suffering of the Bosnian refugees and evacuees.

The OIC member states expressed their full support for the republic of Bosnian-Herzegovina in the legal case it had lodged against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — at the International Court of Justice for violating the treaty of preventing the wholesale extermination and should be punished for it.

Army Commanders of OIC States To Meet on Bosnia

LD2407060895 Tehran IRNA in English 0546 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July, 24, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced that military officials from eight countries member in the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will soon meet to discuss practical ways to help Bosnian Muslims.

Speaking to the morning daily IRAN, Velayati said that defense ministers and army commanders of the Islamic Contact Group will take part in the forthcoming meeting.

The foreign minister arrived here last Saturday night from Geneva where he took part in an emergency meeting of the Islamic Contact Group. He said that the exact date and venue of the meeting of military officials of the OIC Contact Group would be announced later.

Velayati noted that one of the main characteristics of the Geneva meeting was that the participants explicitly announced invalidity of the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia.

He stressed that according to the Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, the Bosnian Government has the right to conclude bilateral defensive contracts with other countries.

On the effectiveness of the help offered to Bosnians by the Islamic countries, Velayati said in fact the Bosnian Muslims had been able to resist against the enemies because of the assistance extended to them by the Islamic states.

He noted that the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, and other Bosnian officials have repeatedly announced that the help offered by the Islamic countries in general, the Islamic Republic of Iran in particular, had been useful for Bosnian people.

Palestinian Affairs

Officials React to Ramat Gan Bus Explosion

'Arafat Condemns Attack; Curfew Issued

TA2407071495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] So far, no terrorist organization has assumed responsibility for the Ramat Gan bus explosion.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has imposed a curfew on the Gaza Strip and is not permitting trucks or Palestinian workers to enter Israel. Our correspondent Eli Bohadana reports that the security forces are thoroughly checking Palestinians returning to the Gaza Strip following the explosion.

Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat condemned the perpetrators of the terrorist attack a short while ago. He told news correspondents that such incidents harm and sabotage the peace process, noting that this is the perpetrators' aim. 'Arafat was speaking to news correspondents in the Gaza Strip on his way to a meeting with Israeli Health Minister Efrayim Sne.

'Arafat Hopes Peace Not Harmed

JN2407095995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0907 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has said he hopes that the explosion in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv this morning which killed at least five Israelis and wounded 28 others will not affect the course of current negotiations.

At a news conference following his meeting with Israeli Health Minister Efrayim Sne at the presidency in Gaza today, President 'Arafat said that this operation seeks to obstruct the negotiations and the peace process.

President 'Arafat, who condemned the incident and described it as a terrorist act, added: We pay the price of the peace process, pointing out that a Palestinian officer was martyred yesterday and another policeman one week ago. He also said he hopes that the National Authority's [Palestinian Authority, PA] Council of Ministers and Rabin's government with their wisdom will tackle the challenges the peace process faces.

On his meeting with Israeli Health Minister Sne, which was attended by Health Minister Dr. Riyad al-Za'nun, President 'Arafat said that the meeting was successful and sought to consolidate health ties between the

Palestinian and Israeli sides. President 'Arafat said that there are obstacles preventing the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles on the set date.

For his part, Israeli Health Minister Sne said that they discussed many issues dealing with health cooperation between the PA and the Israeli Health Ministry. He said that tension prevailed at the meeting as a result of the explosion. Minister Sne explained that these operations seek to kill the peace process. He stressed that the Israeli and Palestinian sides decided to preserve the peace process and to establish good relations between them to reach an agreement. He stressed that it would be wrong to slow down the peace process as a result of terrorism.

Sha'th Condemns Attack

JN2407082595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the Israeli bus explosion near Tel Aviv this morning and emphasized that such actions harm the peace process.

Planning and International Cooperation Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th condemned the attack and said that its timing seeks to obstruct negotiations and to delay the release of the prisoners.

The Israeli forces of occupation have imposed a new military siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Sha'th: PA Not Responsible for Attack

TA2407082795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the attack in Ramat Gan, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister in charge of planning in the Palestinian Authority [PA], said this morning that the PA is not responsible for the attack because it took place within the boundaries of the State of Israel. At the same time, Sha'th said that only if it emerges that the perpetrators came from the Gaza Strip will the PA be held responsible for the attack. He added that he hopes the peace process will not be harmed.

The committee of the heads of the Arab councils sharply condemned the attack, as did the Nazareth Municipality.

The Jordanian ambassador to Israel also condemned the attack, saying it was intended to harm and torpedo the peace process. He said he hopes the terrorists will not succeed in harming the Israeli-Palestinian talks at the Dead Sea. Speaking on behalf of his government, the ambassador conveyed condolences to the bereaved families.

Al-Quds Radio Reports on 'Heroic Operation'

JN2407081295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0733 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new heroic operation has been carried out on the road to the liberation of Palestine—land and man. An explosion occurred on an enemy bus in the Zionist settlement of Ramat Gan near the settlement of Tel Aviv in the Palestinian territories usurped in 1948. News reports leaking from the besieged area confirm that the number of enemy dead and wounded is on the increase. The latest count by al-Quds Radio correspondents says seven of the Zionist enemy were killed and over 27 were wounded. Eyewitnesses, who were present in the area when the explosion occurred this morning, said the explosion was very big and it completely destroyed the bus, in addition to other enemy vehicles.

Al-Quds Radio correspondents, who are following developments very closely, say five individuals are in serious condition and scores of enemy ambulances transported the remnants of settlers and the wounded to Tel Aviv, Herzliyya, and Jerusalem hospitals.

The enemy soldiers and police arrested all Palestinian Arab citizens in the region. The enemy is now sending more troops to set up roadblocks on the roads leading to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Our correspondents say the enemy closed all roads and encircled the area. Subsequent information revealed that the huge explosion on the Zionist Dan Company bus No. 20 occurred while the bus was on its way from the Zionist commercial complex in Ramat Gan to Tel Aviv. Due to the large number of casualties, it was announced in Tel Aviv that no more dead and wounded can be admitted to nearby hospitals.

'Arafat Chairs Cabinet Session; Bosnia Given Aid

JN2207140495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] cabinet held its weekly session under President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Offices in Gaza today.

The cabinet's discussions focused on developments in the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the obstacles preventing an agreement to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles Agreement at the set date. The cabinet also discussed measures related to monitoring the work of the National Authority's institutions and ministries. The cabinet further discussed the outcome of President 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign

Minister Peres in Alexandria which was attended by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy, has said that the Palestinian-Israeli talks will resume tomorrow, probably in the 'Ayn Jidi area on the shores of the Dead Sea. The talks, he said, will continue for one more week and discuss the issues that may help bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli parties.

Minister Quray' said there are still differences over basic concepts related to the redeployment and the timetable for resuming the security powers. Quray' noted that the water problem emerged as a serious issue during the talks and that it may influence the progress of the entire negotiations if no solution is found.

Asked about the case of the city of Hebron, Quray' said: We have accepted exceptional security arrangements in the old city and we would not accept any delay in this issue.

For his part, Hasan Tahbub, minister of awqaf and religious affairs, said the cabinet decided to extend aid to the Bosnian Muslims by deducting one percent of the salaries of the National Authority's employees for a period of one month or more starting tomorrow. Tahbub said that a committee has been set up comprising the ministers of finance, the minister of awqaf, and the minister of social affairs to supervise these funds.

'Urayqat: Israel Must Disarm Settlers

JN2207142195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian National Authority's [PNA] cabinet held its weekly session under President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Offices in Gaza today.

The cabinet discussed developments in the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the obstacles preventing an agreement to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles Agreement on the set date. The cabinet also discussed the outcome of President 'Arafat's last week meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in Alexandria, which was attended by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The cabinet also discussed a draft law for next year's budget and finance.

Local Government Minister Sa'ib 'Urayqat stressed that peace and settlement activities do not meet. He said the Israeli Government must stop the settlement activities and the expropriation of lands and disarm the settlers. Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi said the popular figures will confront the settlement activities and the expropriation of land. [passage omitted]

Settlements, Prisoner Release Discussed

JN2207194195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat chaired the weekly cabinet meeting of the Palestinian National Authority at noon today.

The cabinet followed up with deep concern the new settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories. Presidency's Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the cabinet reiterates that peace and settlements are two parallel lines that do not meet, and that the settlements are time bombs to the peace process.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet asks the Israeli Government to halt settlement activities in all occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem. He added that the cabinet holds the Israeli Government fully responsible for all results of the settlement activities and settlements and urges our people to firmly stand in defense of their lands and to reactivate all popular committees in order to defend the sacred Palestinian land.

The cabinet asks the United Nations, the cosponsors of the Middle East peace process, the European Union states, and all international organizations to immediately interfere and shoulder their responsibilities in face of these settlement activities which threaten the peace process.

The cabinet heard a briefing from President 'Arafat on the Alexandria meeting and emphasized the importance of that meeting and its results. President 'Arafat acquainted the cabinet on his instructions to the delegation, which will begin a new round of negotiations in 'Ayn Jidi near the Dead Sea on all issues under negotiations. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, presented a report on the condition of the Palestinian detainees. Sha'th said the Israeli side will free 2,541 prisoners in two groups; the first when the agreement is signed, and the second within no more than two months after the signing of the agreement.

Sha'th added that 2,200 prisoners who will be released are from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Concluding, Sha'th said the Palestinian negotiating delegation on the detainees considered this insufficient, and will continue its efforts for the release of prisoners.

Minister of Trade and Economy Ahmad Quray' presented a detailed report on the negotiations with the Israeli side last week. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat also presented a detailed report on the progress of negotiations on elections, and told the cabinet that the negotiations are stalemated. 'Uraywat stressed that the elections will only be held after redeployment is completed, and after the Palestinian security forces assume full control.

The cabinet decided to deduct 1 percent of salaries of all employees for one month as a donation for Bosnia.

Trade Minister Discusses Cabinet Meeting, Talks

JN2207184195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1125 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA minister of trade and economy, in Gaza, by Ibrahim Milhim in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Milhim] Abu-'Ala'[Ahmad Quray'], good evening?

[Quray'] Good evening.

[Milhim] The cabinet concluded its sessions a short while ago. What did the cabinet discuss today?

[Quray'] The cabinet started by discussing its routine agenda, which concerns the work of the Palestinian Authority's [PA] ministries and institutions. The cabinet then reviewed all details of the recent one-week long round of talks. It also reviewed the meeting in Alexandria that included President 'Arafat, President Mubarak, and the Israeli foreign minister. The cabinet also discussed at length the obstacles preventing an agreement on the set date.

[Milhim] Some people say the negotiations have reached a dead end?

[Quray'] In fact there are problems. I cannot say, or I do not want to say that they have reached a dead end. I can confirm, however, that there are still difficulties and big gaps over the basic concepts that make up the structure of that agreement. There is still a big gap over the issue of the subsequent redeployment, over the agenda or timetable of that phase, over the security arrangements, and over certain towns, such as Hebron. There are still big gaps over these issues. Our positions are firm and are very well known, and the gap still exists.

[Milhim] The negotiations will continue tomorrow in 'Ayn Jidi?

[Quray'] Yes, the talks will resume tomorrow in 'Ayn Jidi area on the shores of the Dead Sea?

[Milhim] Do you expect an agreement on 25 July?

[Quray'] That is not easy. It is not easy to reach agreement on that date. Our aim is to arrive at a proper and fair agreement that takes into account our interests, and an agreement that will allow us to enter the negotiations of the final phase with more solid steps than ever before. We do not wish to let the time factor hang over our heads like a sword to force us to reach agreement. The objective is to reach a fair, correct agreement, and not just any agreement.

[Milhim] Is the dispute over the principles or the mechanisms of implementation?

[Quray'] In fact there are differences over the basic concepts that make up the agreement. There are differences — and these are normal — over phrases and words and I think we can resolve such differences. But I think it will be difficult to resolve the differences over the basic issues. Take water for example. The water issue may torpedo the entire negotiations process. They want to turn the status quo into a firm reality that must be recognized. We cannot accept such a thing. The water issue will determine the features of our future society and, therefore, we have to be careful and cautious in this regard. There are two points that we cannot ignore: Land and its natural resources, including water. If an agreement is reached on how to regain power over these two points, then the time factor will not be as important as it is now.

[Milhim] Is Egypt playing a role to break the current stalemate?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, President Mubarak played an essential important role in the recent meeting for which he must be commended and thanked. He also played a role in the entire negotiations on the Palestinian track and in the arrival at the phased provisional agreement on the transitional phase. He also played an unforgettable role to introduce happiness in every Palestinian house, and this will hopefully materialize soon, when the sister female prisoners are released. That issue is still under discussion and we hope it will be resolve soon.

[Milhim] Why was the venue of the talks moved from a place near Haifa to 'Ayn Jidi tomorrow?

[Quray] In fact, there is no political reason for that. But it may be better to change sites, on the one hand; and on the other, the negotiator should not always be subject to pressures from outside the negotiation room. There were external pressures, which we felt, and we had to overcome them.

[Milhim] Will the final agreement be signed in Washington as agreed before?

[Quray'] Washington remains the venue for signing that agreement when it is reached. But I think it is difficult to specify the date now.

[Milhim] What are the most prominent positive results that have been reached so far, Abu-'Ala'?

[Quray'] Look, there has been some slow, small progress, but it is a steady progress. Take the presence of the Palestinian security forces in the zone which we call Zone C. There is some progress which, I hope, is firm and on which we can build. This will help bridge the big gap. In certain civilian fields, there has been some progress. For example, in the transportation field, the economic issues, the public works, and other fields some progress was achieved and that progress is real and logical considering it was achieved in one week of work. We hope further progress can be achieved in the civilian fields next week. But the basic problem remains the redeployment, the security arrangements, and the water issue. These are the basic issues, which will remain very difficult problems unless substantial progress is reached.

[Milhim] There are signs of Palestinian troops deployment in the West Bank? Will the deployment go ahead of negotiations?

[Quray'] I do not think so. I do not think that they will redeploy or withdraw their troops before they reach agreement. Agreement is a precondition, I would think.

[Milhim] What if the Israelis withdraw their troops during the negotiations? Are you prepared to fill the vacuum?

[Quray'] I believe we are prepared and have the full capability. I know from our brothers who are in charge of security and from President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] that we are fully prepared. I think that no one will shed tears if they withdraw before reaching an agreement. Instead, people will be very happy.

[Milhim] Certainly. There are certain differences over the running of religious sites. There is a quarrel over controlling Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. What formula do you expect to see on that in the agreement?

[Quray'] I think we have a previous example and a model, which I think is a good model, in Jericho. I do not think we will go any further than that.

[Milhim] Will the Palestinian troops deploy in all Palestinian towns and villages?

[Quray'] Certainly. The Palestinian security troops will deploy according to the Palestinian needs. No one deploys troops in every town and village. Troops may be deployed in towns, around towns, and in certain sites in villages. This deployment will be made on the basis of maps and on the basis of the security needs.

[Milhim] People fear a duality of powers in certain areas in the case of deployment?

[Quray'] Where, for example?

[Milhim] In Bethlehem...?

[Quray', interrupting] What do you mean by duality?

[Milhim continues] ...and Hebron?

[Quray'] We will not accept any agreement that keeps any ambiguity over the issue of redeployment in any site, any area, or any town. There is still a dispute over the city of Hebron. They do not wish to see troops deployment there. Our firm position, and we have informed them of this firm position, is that we will accept nothing short of a redeployment and exceptional security arrangements at the heart of the old city and on the roads in Hebron, and security arrangements on the roads only in Bethlehem and Ramallah areas. There has to be redeployment in the remaining areas, such as Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and Nabulus, just like the case in Jericho and Gaza.

[Milhim] What about the connection among the Palestinian towns? Will there be a single geographic unity?

[Quray'] The West Bank and Gaza constitute a single geographic unity and this unity must be preserved. This is a specific text over which an agreement has been reached. We touched on the issue of the freedom to travel on the roads without introducing any further checkpoints.

[Milhim] So there will be no checkpoints between Palestinian towns?

[Quray'] The Palestinian security troops may set up certain points if there is a need for that. I cannot be certain about that. But, the two sides have agreed that checkpoints should not exceed the number that exist now.

[Milhim] And how will long will it take the Palestinian troops to deploy after signing the agreement?

[Quray'] We did not discuss the timeframe. But the agreement specifies that the redeployment process must be completed 22 days before the elections.

[Milhim] And has a date been set for the elections?

[Quray'] No date has been set. But I do not think they will take a very long time after signing the agreement. Maybe two months — a little bit less or a little bit more — after signing the agreement.

[Milhim] And the water issue remains the sticky problem in the negotiations now. How will it be resolved?

[Quray'] It is undoubtedly a problem. This is a historic, crucial, and strategic problem. I consider the waters and lands the two main issues. The land and its natural resources, including water, is the issue. There are rights to water which must be recognized and discussed. If these rights and the need to discuss them is recognized, we will — and here I am talking with a pragmatist's logic — at the transitional phase agree to doubling the quantity of water allocated to the Palestinians and then, when the rights committee arrives at a final concept, this problem can be resolved. It is really crucial problem. True, there is a water shortage in the entire region, but we cannot allow our water to be taken away and to deprive our citizen of their share of water.

[Milhim] What about the issue of the prisoners. How many will be released?

[Quray'] I do not want to jump to results before a decision is reached. But let me say there are certain positive signs, and we are talking about everybody. I beseech God there will be no exceptions.

[Milhim] So before 1 August, we may see great developments?

[Quray'] We beseech God to see such results that will satisfy our people and achieve their interests.

[Milhim] Thank you Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and trade.

[Quray] Thank you.

Seven Detained PFLP Activists Released

TA2307054895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police have released seven Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] activists from Gaza who were detained last week following the terror attack in Wadi al-Qilt in which two Israeli youths were murdered. Six other activists remained in detention.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 July on page 1 carries a related report, adding that Yunus al-Jaru, "a senior PFLP leader in the Gaza Strip," said the activists "were released without questioning."]

PFLP Official Says 11 Freed

NC2307104495 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 23 (AFP)—Palestinian police have released 11 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) activists arrested after the murder of two Israeli hikers, the militant group said Sunday [23 July].

"The 11 arrested leaders have all been freed, five on Saturday and the others on Sunday," Yunus al-Jaru, a senior official of the militant group led by George Habash, told AFP.

"The police did not question them and did not make them sign any commitments," he said. [passage omitted]

King Accedes to Request To Supervise Elections

JN2207200095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today received Jordanian King Husayn's approval of Jordan's participation in supervising the Palestinian legislative elections.

The Jordanian monarch expressed gratitude for the invitation to supervise the elections which reflects the depth of ties between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. King Husayn wished President 'Arafat success in leading the Palestinian people on the path of the honorable national struggle.

'Arafat Meets With Argentine Foreign Minister

JN2207193395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this evening received Argentina's Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and a number of officials attended.

The Argentine minister delivered a message to President 'Arafat from Argentine President Carlos Menem in which he underlines his country's support to the Palestinian people and their leadership for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

'Arafat and the guest minister reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli talks to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

At a news conference at the conclusion of the talks, 'Arafat hailed Argentina's support to the Palestinian people.

Arab-Israeli Talks

No 'Real Progress' in Zikhron Ya'aqov Talks

TA2107124395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first week of talks between the Palestinians and Israel at Zikhron Ya'aqov ended without any real progress.

Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the head of the Palestinian delegation, said that wide differences remained with regard to the main issues and it would be difficult to formulate a draft agreement by the 25 July target date. Speaking to correspondents, the head of the Palestinian delegation noted that there was another sharp disagreement over IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, although some progress had been made on this issue.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Palestinians reiterated their demand to be compensated for the water agreement Israel signed with Jordan.

As for the negotiations with Syria, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Qol Yisra'el that Israel had no objection to resuming the ambassador talks in Washington. Our political correspondent says that Israel is prepared to resume these talks, on the condition that they do not come in the place of negotiations between military officers.

Palestinians Reportedly 'Pessimistic'

NC2307052895 Paris AFP in English
2305 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jerusalem, July 23 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO are to make a last-ditch attempt to reach agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank amid fading hopes of concluding a deal by a Tuesday [25 July] deadline.

Both sides have set July 25 as their target date for agreeing the arrangements for implementing the next phase of autonomy after failing to meet an earlier July 1 deadline.

However, Palestinian officials were increasingly pessimistic about the chances of reaching agreement after five days of intense negotiations last week at a secluded hotel in Zikhron Ya'aqkov, near the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

Their talks centre on an Israeli army redeployment away from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank, a transfer of civil powers in the territory — occupied by Israel since 1967 — and elections to an autonomy council.

Despite assurances from Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last Thursday that the two sides were close to a deal, Palestinian negotiators this weekend said the two sides were still far from an accord.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a senior Palestinian negotiator, said: "I think July 25 will pass before an agreement is reached. There are still serious gaps on major issues."

Another Palestinian negotiator, Hasan Abu-Libdah told AFP there were at least three main causes of division. "Differences remain over three fundamental questions: our water rights, the mechanism for attributing water quotas, and the guiding principles on transferring civil powers to the PLO," he said.

"The Palestinians are also in disagreement over the timetable for Israeli redeployment in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Hebron," he added.

The 150 negotiators from both camps were expected to continue their negotiations on Sunday, most probably at En Gedi on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, according to Palestinian officials.

Yet even before they started fresh talks after a weekend break, both sides were already insisting that July 25 was not a sacred date. The second phase of self-rule is already a year behind the schedule set out under the Declaration of Principles in September 1993. [passage omitted]

PA's Quray' Comments on Negotiations With Israel

Reports 'Large Gaps' at Talks

JN2107120695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1040 GMT 21 July 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA official in charge of trade and industry, by Rajih Qaddur on 21 July; place not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] A week has passed since the PLO-Israeli negotiations [in Zikhron Ya'aqov] began. What are the results so far?

[Quray'] Actually there are still large gaps on most major points on the agenda. There is the issue of the redeployment. Some gaps are still there. There are gaps on the security arrangement issue. Some progress has been realized on civil issues and the transfer of power but there are still differences and gaps. Even on the election issue, certain problems and gaps are still there. There is also the new problem, the water issue. This is a serious problem and we hope the Israeli side will reevaluate and reconsider its proposals, which I do not believe are a basis for reaching an agreement on this sensitive issue.

[Qaddur] Does this mean an agreement between you and Israel will not be signed by the 25 July?

[Quray'] I believe this deadline has become very difficult, if not impossible, to meet. We are still far apart and we need more time, and I am afraid it will be a very long time before we reach an agreement. Our aim is to reach an agreement, bypass the transitional phase, and begin the final phase and the final status negotiations. But we are not going to bypass that by any agreement and at any price. We are committed to the Declaration of Principles [DOP] in form and spirit. We want an agreement that is in harmony with and implements the second part of the DOP.

[Qaddur] Do you require at this stage more meetings between Palestinian Authority [PA] President 'Arafat and perhaps Peres or Rabin?

[Quray'] As a negotiating delegation, we are in constant contact with President Yasir 'Arafat, receiving instructions. The Israeli delegation is also in contact with their leadership. We will resume work next week and hope to reach more understanding.

[Qaddur] Have you fixed another venue for continuing the negotiations?

[Quray'] In fact no venue has been fixed and we hope that we will agree on a venue today. Perhaps we will remain close to the leadership over the next week because problems are still big.

Denies Breakthrough Agreement With Israel

NC2107145695 Paris AFP in English
1420 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 21 (AFP) — Senior PLO negotiators insisted Friday they had reached no agreement with Israel on extending Palestinian self-rule despite upbeat Israeli assurances that a deal was near.

As the two sides prepared for more hard bargaining in an attempt to conclude a deal before their self-imposed deadline of Tuesday, PLO chief negotiator Ahmad Quray' said there had been no agreements in talks at a hotel in Israel.

The talks centre on arranging elections to an autonomy council, an Israeli Army redeployment away from Palestinian population centres on the West Bank, and a transfer of civil powers in the territory, occupied by Israel since 1967.

Quray' contradicted Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who on Thursday said the two sides had reached key agreements on the next phase of autonomy, including an army redeployment on the West Bank and water sharing.

"We have not reached any accord with the Israelis during the talks at Zikhron Ya'akov," a small town south of Haifa in northern Israel, Quray' told AFP.

"The extremely complex question of water has not been settled. Israel has clearly made its position known, which is not to conform to the fundamental principles of negotiation," he said.

"On our side, our position on this subject is that we will not sign any intermediate agreement (on extending Palestinian autonomy) without having resolved the question of water beforehand."

The two sides, who will resume their talks on Sunday after a two- day break, considered their next moves as hundreds of Jewish settlers burned tyres and stoned Palestinian vehicles to protest the government's peace policies.

The settlers blocked 20 main roads and junctions on the West Bank for two hours on Friday and vandalised Palestinian property in protest at the government's peace policies, an AFP correspondent said.

The settlers are bitterly opposed to negotiations between Israel and the PLO on extending Palestinian autonomy across the territory, arguing that an Israeli Army redeployment as part of the deal will endanger the 130,000 Jews on the West Bank.

Amid heightened tension over the security of Israelis in the territory, Palestinian police on Friday arrested 11 members of a radical group opposed to the peace process after it admitted killing two Israeli hikers on Tuesday.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a militant group led by George Habash, said police arrested 11 members, including officials, during dawn raids in Gaza City.

The PFLP issued a statement in Damascus on Thursday saying it had murdered the two Israelis whose mutilated bodies were found Tuesday in a gorge on the occupied West Bank, near the autonomous enclave of Jericho. It was the first serious anti-Israeli attack in three months.

16 Points Still To Be Settled

NC2107191995 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Interview with Palestinian Authority official Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat in Jerusalem by Antoine 'Awn in London; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awn] Dr. 'Urayqat, how do you interpret the action of Jewish settlers in the West Bank?

['Urayqat] Peace and the settlements are like two parallel lines—they do not converge. That is what we have been talking about all the time. I believe the settlers realize that the peace process means the gradual disappearance of this abnormal phenomenon.

['Awn] What are the differences, especially as the issue of water rights was postponed during the Alexandria meeting and agreement was reached in return to allow the Palestinians of Jerusalem to become candidates in the elections?

['Urayqat] First, the report about the water rights issue is not true. Consultations on it are continuing, although it is one of the main obstacles. The report about an agreement on Jerusalem is also not true. We see Jerusalem as one electoral district, like the other electoral districts, when it comes to nominations and voting. There are 16 additional points that involve security issues related to the Palestinian [word indistinct], and the other redeployment issues. Briefly, we say that we are looking forward to 4 or 6 May 1996 for the final negotiation phase. No issues will remain pending. The transitional phase should be completed between now and May 1996. Therefore we are discussing the pending points, which are major ones. I believe that those who talk about 25 July 1995 are [words indistinct].

['Awn] When will the negotiations resume and what are the conditions?

['Urayqat] They will resume here the day after tomorrow, Sunday.

['Awn] How do you explain the absence of a U.S. role this week?

['Urayqat] The U.S. role in the Palestinian-Israeli track has always been absent. I believe that the U.S. role in our track was characterized by complete bias toward Israel. Very often, when the U.S. side talks, it acts as if it is more Catholic than the pope.

On Need To Settle Differences

JN2307145795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0947 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', PA minister of economy and trade, in Gaza, by Yasir 'Atilah in the studio on 23 July; from the "With The Midday Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', the Israeli-Palestinian talks will resume today. I am not going to ask you about the controversial points, which we know very well, but for an explanation of a situation which listeners may find contradictory. On the one hand, there is a long list containing some 18 controversial issues. On the other, statements made at the end of the tripartite Alexandria meeting last week were very positive. Also, sources close to the negotiations say that the agreement will be signed during the first days of next month?

[Quray'] First, let me say that the Alexandria meetings were positive and the atmosphere that prevailed was positive. The majority of topics discussed at these meetings were not controversial issues but ones that needed a political decision by the two leaderships. No matter the number of controversial points, whether they are 18 or 80, if there is agreement on concepts, then these issues are no longer that important, because they can then be settled. The problem is when there is disagreement on concepts and the basic principles on which the agreement could be anchored.

I do not want to anticipate the results of this round. But, let us go to the meetings with good intentions, and we will seek to reach common understandings for defining how to formulate the interim agreement we are discussing. Generally speaking, there is still a gap. I hope this gap will be reduced during the next session. I do not expect we will reach agreement in the next session, but let me say that I expect and hope, and we will work to close the gap between us on the basis of concepts that are in line with the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

['Atilah] Is there a possibility of signing an agreement while keeping some of the issues for the final status talks?

[Quray'] No, this is not possible because we do not want to add more issues to those earmarked in the DOP—an agenda for the final status negotiations has been set. We absolutely do not wish to add other issues to them, and we will not accept to add other issues. However, it is possible that talks and not negotiations could continue on some issues pertaining to the interim stage on condition they are settled in accordance with the provisions of the DOP during the interim stage.

['Atilah] Reports mention that Palestinian Authority [PA] Head Yasir 'Arafat will dispatch two of his aides to Washington to prepare for the signing of the agreement, which is expected to be finalized in the first few days of next month?

[Quray'] I have no knowledge of this. We met with the president yesterday. We met him during the cabinet session and during the negotiations committee meeting. We spoke with him, but there was no mention of such a thing. In principle, we insist that the agreement should be signed in Washington, but I do not think we need to make preparations in Washington, because Washington will make such preparations. We will go there to sign. I have no information on this.

['Atilah] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', official in charge of the economy in the PA and head of the negotiating Palestinian delegation, thank you very much.

[Quray'] Thank you.

Says 25 Jul Deadline Cannot Be Met

NC2307200095 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis, by Amin al-Khatib; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Quray'] Let me say that there is optimism. Otherwise we would not have agreed to negotiate. The logic of the Declaration of Principles requires that we conclude this interim agreement which we are now negotiating. As for the 25 July deadline, it is difficult if not downright impossible to meet it. There are still disagreements over basic concepts. The importance of this stage—here we must speak with precision—is that every success, but also every flaw, will influence the permanent status of the negotiations.

[Al-Khatib] Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation, said today that it is difficult to settle the unresolved issues at the negotiating table and that they probably need to be settled by political decisions by the leaders on both sides.

[Quray'] I disagree. There are still negotiable issues that need to be discussed. I agree that there is certainly disagreement over some concepts. We must remember that this agreement has two basic phases, one of which precedes the elections. The Israelis want the pending agreement to be an agreement over the elections. We want it to be a temporary agreement within the interim stage itself. There is a big difference between an agreement over the elections and a temporary agreement. The agreement over the elections will only pertain to the election arrangements.

Another bone of contention is that we are seeking security arrangements for the redeployment and relocation of the Israeli forces. They want to relocate their forces only to enhance their security arrangements. This shows a big gap between our views and theirs on this issue.

One more matter: Our position is that we are the original human presence in the West Bank, while they constitute an external presence. They hold the opposite view. There is a conflict of views. The resolution of the contested issues will form the foundation of the agreement. This is why we must be very cautious and meticulous.

[Al-Khatib] The Israelis say the Palestinians are willing to postpone the discussion of the water issue until after the elections.

[Quray'] This is not true. Look, there are two issues here. First of all there is the issue of our water rights. This is not negotiable. I would like to tell MBC that the water issue will determine the fate of the future Palestinian entity. This entity's ability to supply its citizens with water for their daily use or for development projects will be mainstay of the entity or emerging state.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Resume in 'En Gedi

JN2307192095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations resumed in 'En Gedi near the Dead Sea today in the presence of all working groups from both sides in order to begin detailed discussions on the components of an agreement, and to overcome the outstanding issues which are impeding the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

In press statements, Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said all outstanding issues should be resolved before any agreement is signed.

For his part, Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation to these negotiations, said he hoped that the gap between the positions of both sides would be bridged. He said that some outstanding issues require the intervention of the Palestinian and Israeli leaders.

Palestinians: Summit Necessary

TA2407045295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between Israel and the Palestinians on the expansion of autonomy will continue this morning at the Lot Hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. Sources in the Palestinian delegation told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that in their opinion, progress will continue to be made on economic issues and the transfer of civil powers; however, the main problems remained unresolved. The Palestinians assert that only a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, or Shim'on Peres at the very least, will bring about real progress.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, speaking in Herzliyya at a reception given by the Egyptian ambassador on the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, said that all the difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians can be overcome. It is only natural, he said, for there to be an atmosphere of crisis now because as negotiations draw to an end, each side attempts to score achievements. Peres said that although he is certain an agreement will be reached, he cannot specify a date for this.

The talks at the Lot Hotel are expected to continue until the end of the week.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 23 July reports that speaking on the same occasion, "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel is waiting for Damascus to assure Washington that Syria stands by the understandings reached with Secretary of State Warren Christopher. We have time, the prime minister said, and Syria must also be interested in making peace. As for the negotiations with the Palestinians, Rabin said it is only natural to need a lot of time to resolve such a complex issue."]

Algeria

Council Passes Privatization Bill; Bill Detailed

LD2207211695 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The bill relating to the privatization of public organizations was passed today by the Transitional National Council in their afternoon session. [passage omitted] Details of this bill are given here by Nassima Kirat:

[Kirat] After discussions that lasted several days in succession, the Transitional National Council passed with a majority the bill concerning the privatization of public organizations.

The bill is aimed at bringing new savings and revenues, guarding the interests of the state, giving the workers the right to participate in the capital of the organizations in which they worked in order to safeguard their work positions, modernization of the organizations, raising their competitive potentials, and giving the citizen the opportunity to buy shares of companies which are privatized.

The second provision was amended to read that this bill relates to the organizations which belonged to the competitive sectors which are active in the sectors of studies, construction, public works, irrigation, tourism, the hotel trade, commerce, distributions, the textiles industry, agriculture, land transport, ports and airports services, insurance services, light and medium size industries, and also small local organizations.

The third provision of the bill was amended to read that the state will continue to guarantee the continuation of the activity of the organization which had been privatized for a minimum five years. [passage omitted]

Council Elects Deputy Speakers

LD2307215095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Transitional National Council held a plenary session today to elect the bureau's six new members. Members of the Transitional National Council elected the members of the council in accordance with Article 20 of the rules of procedure, which stipulates that the speaker's deputies, namely the members of the bureau, are elected for one year on a renewable basis.

The session held for these elections, chaired by the council's speaker, Abdelkader Bensalah, was characterized by transparency. The winners are: Lakhdari Mohamed Lakhdar, Abdelouahab Oughidni, Abdelkader Merbah, Abdallah Thamini, Wahid Gahiouche, and Boumediene Bouchaour. According to the same rules of procedure, the council will begin the election of the new members of the ten committees and their bureaus this week.

Ben Bella Blames Army, Corruption for Crisis

BR1907142995 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1340 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Unattributed report: "Bella Blames Financial Mafias and Government for Algerian Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Lorenzo del Escorial (Madrid), 18 Jul (EFE) — Opposition leader and former President of Algeria Ahmed Ben Bella today accused the financial mafias and government corruption, protected by the Army, of being responsible for the situation of crisis and violence experienced by his country.

At a press conference in El Escorial, where he took part in the course "Strategic Thinking and Culture of Defense in Spain," Ben Bella described the situation in Algeria as "difficult," but not "catastrophic."

The former Algerian president accused the superpowers of preventing Algeria's development, and cited France as a country which has intervened in the conflict with an "absolutely materialist" aim.

The leader of the Algerian opposition maintained that "the real power in Algeria is held by the Army. There is a government of technocrats which decides nothing; it is the Army which makes the decisions."

According to Ben Bella, this causes the regime not to accept a real dialogue with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and the talks with the fundamentalists to fail.

In the Algerian leader's opinion, "the people, the young people, the women, the nongovernmental organizations, and so forth, must be allowed to agree on a strategy which will send the Army back to its barracks."

He added that "the solution should not make way for economic liberalism," which he deems "unable to extricate Algeria and the Third World from their situation of poverty."

Ben Bella stated that the FIS' existence is due to a situation of disenchantment, but asserted that the important thing is to know that this movement is not in a majority in Algeria and that fundamentalism is a danger for the countries, although it is less a danger than poverty.

The former Algerian president referred to the migratory currents toward Europe, "which neither laws nor the Army will be able to prevent, because the young people leaving Algeria are seeking a solution to their greatest problem, which is hunger."

With respect to the situation of Algerian women, Ben Bella stated that in the north people tend to emphasize the suffering of the modern, mostly French-speaking Algerian women "who are now all in Paris," but forget the others who are more numerous and live in Algeria.

However, he asserted that women are less affected than men by the problem of the crisis and violence, because "the theory of respect for women still prevails" in Algeria.

With respect to journalists, Ben Bella said that they act in support of the regime because it controls them.

During his contribution to this seminar, the former Algerian president condemned the situation of exploitation by the rich nations of the north experienced by the Third World countries.

Hachani Returned to Isolation; Contacts Barred

MM2107133095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Hachani Has Been Returned to His Cell; His Lawyers Are Banned From Contacting Him"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH — Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani's lawyers have announced that "Hachani was returned to his cell in Serkadji prison 11 July. He is in complete isolation, as his family has been banned from visiting him and his lawyers from contacting him."

The lawyers said in a message to AL-HAYAH: "The defense lawyers believe that returning Hachani to prison is a blatant violation of the law and a disregard for the rights of their client. They condemn these practices, which are a serious infringement of the notion of a rule-of-law state, and they believe that their client has become a political hostage."

As is known, Hachani has been held without trial since January 1992, and he has been in complete isolation since. [as published]

Meanwhile, informed Algerian sources have ruled out that Ali Belhadj sent a letter to Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi. [passage omitted]

Newsletter Discusses Islamic, Algerian 'Struggle'

MS2007133095 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 18 Jul 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS supporters in Europe" — as received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt]

Editorial — General Zeroual wants to become President Zeroual!

Praise be to Allah!

Since last November the Junta has entered a phase of political gambling aiming mainly at satisfying some western capitals "request" about the necessity of a "popular legitimacy" of those who deal with them in the name of Algeria. But since the Junta insisted that its problem is one of "terrorism", some influent western capitals reformulated the "request" in the form of "genuine dialogue should take place between all those who are ready to reject violence". The Junta read this "amendment" as "...with those who are ready to surrender to the Junta".

It is Algeria's western partners who count most in the eyes of the Junta. For the Generals in Algiers, the Algerian people are a flock of sheep that can be driven as they which using the policy of "the carrot and the stick". However as Algeria is plunging deeper and deeper into the pit of bankruptcy, the "carrot" that could be offered at a time of 40 dollars/barrel of oil, has become a mirage offered by way of official speeches only.

Last November, the "pressure" on the Junta was somewhat stronger for it to deliver something. General Zeroual announced the failure of a dialogue that never properly took place with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] and before voices started to complain he "threw on the carpet" the more "sensational news": Algeria is going back to the freedom of choosing its leaders! What the General did not reveal is that as it has been a tradition for the regime to legitimate the ownership of public wealth STOLEN by the "Nomenklatura" of the regime, so it will go for the supreme power of the country. With some paper work looking like presidential elections, General Zeroual will be called President Zeroual and will have a ownership licence to show, signed by himself and applauded by what the Generals think of as sheep. Some may say that the deduction is too fast since "the patriot Gen. Zeroual does not even like to be in power and that it is his opponents who are barbaric power-thirsty" as it came from the General last speech. For the relation between "pathologic obsession for power" and "the tendency to cover oneself with an official uniform", the reader is directed to the work of post and pre- Freudian psychoanalysts on the subject. Going back to our subject, General Zeroual, he seems more at ease in revealing his most inert fantasies when he is standing up in front of the TV cameras, making a speech that leave many... speechless from the amount of political indecency thrown at the face of the Algerian people.

The speech made by the General on the 05 of July was not an ordinary speech to the nation at the independence day! No! It was a real political manifesto full of "I" and "Me". A subconscious reading will give something like this: "vote for me and I will solve the economical crisis, I will solve your housing problems, I will eradicate the bureaucracy and nepotism, I will establish the social justice. Yes, since I took office the economy is "close to start" to boom!"

To the Mujahedeen whom he called paternalistically in a false de Gaulle style, "the mislaid sons of Algeria", he "offered" his version of "la paix des braves" [the peace of the brave] as a classical war message aimed at "intoxicating the enemy ranks".

Then the General issued a long communique via the Junta official news agency APS stating the apparent reasons why his "dialogue with the FIS jailed leadership" has failed. It was a real electoral campaign advertising. Reading just the long introduction, one gets confused and will think one time that the Junta is in fact an Islamic party, one of the hardest, then it is a berberist party then a baathist then back to a military Junta. This is the way of how the General electoral campaign team tries to "fish" some electoral support in every possible sea there is!

But the General has got a problem, a serious one. He is waiting for "credible candidates" to show up but no one so far did because he himself did not publicly made his position clear and this information is vital for those tempted by a political suicide. The General can not make his position public (that of being the candidate) because no one can challenge him under these conditions of dictatorship where the results are most probably already set. And remember, the General did give his "word of honour" to hold the elections before exactly five months from now! And the opposition has said No it will not happen! That is why the General can not announce his candidature until he can make a breach in the opposition ranks but he can not because... and... going in circle.

The taking place or not of the Junta elections is a political challenge between the Generals and the Algerian people. A challenge set by the Junta but the Algerian people will win it by a boycott incha allah.

The Junta is running out of time for the schedule it has set, particularly on the military side where the impossible objective of "reestablishing the security" by "eradicating the terrorism", is a more than real challenge! This dream was decided counting without the Mujahedeen. For them and after having put all parties near their own responsibility in front of Allah, the Algerian people and history, the General speech has in fact given them a fresh start.

Yes there is a fresh start as the Mujahedeen and the FIS are "cleaning up their house" as they say. Time of political hesitation are now behind as the Junta position can not be more clearer to everybody! Time is on the Mujahedeen side. No question about it.

Revelations from a Junta defector!

Dalila who was a Junta police inspector specialised in "general investigation" and who used to work at the central police headquarters in Algiers (Amirouche boulevard), has defected from the Junta and accepted to reveal her own testimony of the Junta horror and which was published in the French newspaper LIBERATION of the 22/06/95. Following are some extracts:

— On the 12/02/92, one month after the "annulation of the elections" (coup d'etat), the first six policemen were shot dead at the Casbah (Algiers). "We taught it was going to stop and that it was not serious..." three years later the conflict has caused 45,000 dead and the morgues are full. "I use to put spirit liquid on my hands to forget the smell. It smells death in Algeria. It is not as it use to be. Everybody is discouraged. Everybody is squared."

The dirty war has reached Dalila. She does not participate in the mass arrests (ratissage), "It was not my job," and she does not infiltrate the Islamists: "that is the job of the religious brigade, bearded policemen." But in the police stations (commissariats) there is torture: "at the beginning of 1993, we have received order of shouting any suspect because terrorists needed to be eliminated. By terrorist it is meant Islamist."

It was around that time that Dallila was transferred to Cavignac in the middle of Algiers: "It is the most disgusting police station," where the police chief (commissaire divisionnaire) who was in that job until autumn 1994 and his two assistants, "tortured and killed without mercy!". "Anyway this police station was the most feared police station in the whole of Algiers department with that of the central and the old police barracks of Chateauneuf in the hills of El Biar which became the headquarters of ONRB (National Organisation of repression and "Gang war" (banditism]". "Nowadays when a suspect is brought to the station, there is no need in trying to investigate. The suspect is automatically greeted with foot kicks on the face and tummy. Before even starting the suspect is already "half unrecognisable". His clothes are then taken off, his eyes are band covered so that he can not see who is in front of him. He is strongly attached to a ladder and a tube of salted water is put into his mouth then they bring electricity....". Dalilla also talks about a machine dedicated for the hands: "which take the skin off the fingers", gas torch with which the suspects are burned with, sodomy that they are victim of... On a table Dallila draw from her memory the plan of Cavignac police station. Two cells with bars and four others which are closed and each one contains about twenty persons some of them are kids of 15 and 16 years of age. "The torture take place in the "garage" and when it is time, somebody will say to the policemen come and see what we are going to do to this dog". Dallila confirm that people have died under torture in Cavignac and that many others have lost their minds. "Almost every night around 11 PM, one prisoner sometimes two are executed and thrown in the street and it is said that they have died in a crossfire. Some are killed during transfer from one station to another.

Dallila knows Chateauneuf centre only by what her colleague Nadia was telling her. Her colleague Nadia who had the job of guarding "women terrorists" in Chateauneuf. Nadia was assassinated. The policemen (women) have access to only two rooms in the centre which belongs to the secret police (Security Militaire). It is the "dangerous suspects" that are brought in this centre which is equipped with modern military equipments such as FMPK, a machine gun equipped with infra-red binocular. Nadia has told her about "terrorists women being tortured and rapped". "When somebody is taken to Chateauneuf it is as if he/she has never existed. After a while the body is generally find in the morgue...".

Halim, a colleague of Dallila at the Cavignac has been assassinated by two of his friends. Now no policemen thrust any other colleague.

Dallila said that she was reported to her superior by one her colleagues at the beginning of 1995 while she has been affected to administrative duty. For "suspected death", the coffin is sealed and the family does not have the right to open it. It is the police who take care of the funeral."

One day Dallila went to one of the torture chamber and saw seven men half naked and amongst them an old man who was lying on the floor in a puddle of blood. "They were scared when they saw me then one of them showed me his arm. He must have been severely burn as he has almost a hole in his arm". (End of extracts)

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: A life for Islam before being assassinated in the MOSQUE!

The last time Algerians living in London saw Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui (may Allah have mercy on him and accept him as Martyr) was during the commemoration of the 01/11/54, the beginning of the armed struggle against the French colonialism. The commemoration was held on Sunday the 30/10/94 by the Algerian Community in Britain and Shaykh Abdelbaki was the guest speaker of the event which took place at the White Chaple mosque in London.

The shaykh had a very busy schedule between conferences and interviews in radios and T.V stations. More dynamic than most of the youth despite his then age (84 years), this imam has been working for Islam most of his life. Few Golden advice were given by the Shaykh to all who support the Algerian people struggle that of uniting their heart, to work rather than talk and to be careful about those set out to divide them. "The Enlightenment" has taken that opportunity to interview the shaykh briefly on Monday the 31/10/94. The context in which the interview was given was that in Algeria General Zeroual has given a public speech just few hours before the interview in which he announced the so-called "dialogue with the FIS" has failed. News of General Lamari promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-General was 24 hours old. Gen. Lamari made a declaration in Tizi Ouzzou few weeks before where he talked about "exterminating The terrorists" (meaning the Mujahedeen) and it was also the launching of "operation presidential elections" by the Junta. In France the repression against the Algerian Islamists has reached its climax under the supervision of Pasqua. Fifteen brothers members and supporters of the FIS were expelled by the French authorities to Burkana-Fasso (Africa) while their families were left behind. In that context, and as Shaykh Abdelbaki flew back to Paris from London, he was questioned for three hours by the French authorities at the airport. He was bodily searched as some kind of a vulgar criminal and a video tape showing a conference he held at School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, was confiscated.

What is it that the French authorities wanted from the tape that contained a lecture given by the shaykh to a public audience...Oh yes! there were also some faces of Algerian Islamist activists in the tape as well!

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui's body has been flown to Algiers on Tuesday 18/07/95 at about midday. He was buried in Sidi Bennour cemetery (Bouzerah - Algiers). The FIS leaders Abdelkader Boukhamkhan and Nourredine Chigara were among the participants. May Allah have mercy on his soul and accept him into His vast paradise. Amine.

Following is the integrity of the interview:

"The enlightenment": The Military Junta in Algeria has periodically come up with the idea of "dialogue with the FIS" to solve the Algerian problem. What is the use this proposal? Is there any seriousness from the Junta side to solve the situation?

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: It is in fact a game to gain time and to project the image that the Military Junta wants a real dialogue. The FIS leaders have put reasonable conditions that of the release of political prisoners and the ability of the FIS leadership to meet freely. These conditions have not yet been met. We explain the stretching in the duration of the situation as an attempt to gaintime and to degrade the situation. All the signs so far have been pointing toward the conclusion that the people in power in Algerian do not want to leave "the seats" after having ruled for more than thirty years.

"The enlightenment": Is there any tangible positive changes from the Junta towards the Algerian people in terms of torture, concentration camps, summary executions, special military courts...?

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: and here is the Junta chief of staff Lamari promoted to the rank of lieutenant-General and he is one of those impregnated with the idea of violence and the bloody confrontation which he talks about in every occasion!

"The enlightenment": Any news from Shaykh Abbassi Madani and Shaykh Ali Belhadj? Are they free to communicate with the outside world?

(question put forward before the decision taken by the junta to isolate the two leaders completely from the outside world once more)

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: From the time we have contacted them by phone, only the four FIS leaders who were with them in jail were able to see them. Shaykh Abbassi Madani has said "we have moved from one prison to another".

"The enlightenment": What is the situation of the fifteen brothers expelled by the French authorities to Burkana-Fasso? How are the families left in France coping?

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: The brothers health is good and they are OK! But their families left in France are in a desperate situation. There are also other brothers who are still under house arrest, we are waiting for their trial after the demand by the lawyers we have engaged to re-opening of the case.

"The enlightenment": Finally, What is the Future of Islam in North Africa? Should the Muslims be optimistic about the final outcome of the ongoing struggle in Algeria?

Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui: The future is only known to Allah. However our optimism about the flourishing of Islam is with the bounty of Allah good, particularly when we see daily victories in Algeria and in the Muslims countries.

What the Shaykh has said about: Jihad in Algeria: (El Munkidh, July 1993)

To a question: what is the picture you can present about Jihad in Algeria?

The Shaykh: Jihad in Algeria was not born when the elections were cancelled. It is a continuation of a long Ummah Jihad. The cancellation of the elections of January '92 are but direct (obvious) and strong reasons. The status of Jihad now is past the danger zone. It has been fully established on the ground, and has been expanded to encompass the homeland including the farthest points of the South. It moved from a stage of preparation to a stage of confrontation and preparation for the final blow. I would like to use this opportunity to tell all sections of the Algerian people that the junta has failed to damage Jihad militarily. The victories and advances of Mujahideen are best proof. This junta is using a secondary method (to fight Jihad). It targets the international media, some papers and commercial magazines have been bought by the Algerian junta for very lucrative prices to play the role of a mouthpiece for the putschists. They replaced newspapers inside Algeria which lost the trust of the Algerian public opinion, and this is because it sided completely with the Algerian junta. The principal purpose of this scheme is to create divisions within the ranks of Mujahideen. We then tell them: We learned a lot from the Afghan experiment. These newspapers, we know them very well, they are part of "the papers with no personality." They are far low to be considered worthy of attention by the Mujahideen. Know O junta, that the Mudjahideen are one house at each corner of which a truthful man is standing, protecting it.

About the Mujahedeen: (El Munkidh, July 93)

To the question: do you have a final word to address the Mujahideen inside and outside Algeria with? The Shaikh: My words to the leadership of the Jihad inside Algeria is to rely on Allah, first and foremost, then rely on one's efforts and brotherly cooperation. One must deny one's ego and purify his intentions, because the Mujahid is close to death, close to paradise. Outside Algeria the Mujahideen must publicize the fact that the people have the right to be free in their choice. One must expose the junta and its injustice inflicted upon people in newspapers, colloquia and international forums. This is very important. Our community outside can provide with material and moral support to the brethren, the Mudjahideen. Materially, (they should help every) working Algerian and morally every writer and intellectual to champion truth with one's tongue and pen. One should not become careless for the prophet of Islam said "those who do not care about the well-being of Muslims are not part of them." Following are few lines written in French for the Shaykh by one of his close aid. [French passage omitted: testimony to Shaykh's scholarship]

News of Jihad and Mujahedeen

Following is an appeal by the Islamic Salvation Army published in its fortnightly newsletter "El Inkadh" of Friday 14/07/95.

The Islamic Salvation Front, The Islamic Salvation Army, General Commandment, Appeal for Jihad!

Praise be to Allah the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds and may peace and blessings be upon His prophet, his family, his companions, the followers and those follow them with goodness until the day of judgement.

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) leadership in its exoneration of obligation before Allah, the Algerian people and History and from its sense of the Historical responsibility that lies on its shoulders in order to attain with the Algerian people, the great objective of constructing the Islamic State, took the initiative of sending correspondences to many parties in the country so that each one take a stand toward what the Algerian people are enduring of sufferance, murders, displacement, exile, which has caused hundreds of thousands of orphans, thousands of widowers and thousands of mothers having lost their children... all this because of the chosen option of an Islamic State amongst others on the 26/12/91 such that all will live under the protection of the Islamic legislation. And this can only show how deep is the people aspiration and the complete readiness in sacrificing the most valuable for the sake of the Faith.

The preachers of hatred and atheism have become sophisticated in varying their war methods against the Algerian people; They are no longer satisfied with mass murders which have targeted thousands of innocent civilians who were kidnapped from their homes and their bodies thrown in the streets, in front of the mosques, and in public discharges, but they are following the steps of the French colonialism. They are now forcing people in remote regions to hold arms against the sons of their own people. This is what has happen during the French colonialism which has equipped 50,000 "Goumis" (Algerian traitors) to fight the heroes of independence, but this policy did not succeed and Algeria has become independent, praise be to Allah, despite their dislike of it.

As for the media war, it has recently reached its climax by emphasis on two elements:

— First concerning the imaginary victories which were attributed to the Junta forces in Ain Defla and Jijel in particular and in which even the western media were mislead and reported about the use of warplanes and bombardments as if it was not well known that the the air bombardments have been going on since 1993. They should ask regions like Ouled Chebaba, Collo, Oued Azzouhour (Skikda), Seraidi (Annaba), the montains of Guelma, Souk Ahrass and Milia, Ouled Askar, Bani Khatab, Sadat and Azan...in jijel, and Ain Kercha and other territories in Oum El Bouaghi and in Batna... and the list is still long.

— As for the second point, it is related to to the false communiques attributed to the Islamic Salvation Army sometimes, and to other armed organisations another time and which project to its reader the illusion that a raging war is taking place between the different armed sections and all this in order for the "hired media" to conclude for their audiences that the Mujahedeen are exterminated and that there is only few elements left. The Army in which Prayer is established, the Quran is read and the Name of the Merciful is praised, can only last and be victorious with the will of Allah.

So Oh! Muslim Algerian People! Join the callers to the Merciful and answer the brothers call and walk with the convoy of the braves! Today is a day of struggle (Jihad) that will assure Safety; Either Victory that establishes Justice and remove injustice and oppression or Martyrdom with the immortals.

The AIS General Commandment — Jihad operations "we don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to grab the right of the people to freely choose." (Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in "Fasl el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from

the rulers "). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992)

Following are some Jihad operations in their final outcome since the month of March 95;

Jijel province (wilaya): — Ouled Askar: On the 19/03/95, the Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a junta supply convoy composed of a Landrover vehicle and a military truck in the region of Azioutna. The operation resulted in the death of the armed militia chief by the name of "Belghoul Salah" and his deputy and an officer with a rank of captain as well as a group of 16 to 20 junta soldiers. The Mujahedeen collected 5 Kalashnikovs and 16 boxes of ammunition.

It is to not that the traitor "Belghoul Salah" has said in the town of Belhadaf that: "I am still to live for another fifty years and do this and do that to the Mujahedeen". The region inhabitance have estimated that he has live almost exactly fifty hours after his threat.

— On the 19 and 20/03/95, in the first day the Junta troops tried to attack the region from different positions using helicopters but as soon as the news from Azioutna came, the helicopters moved to that region to take their dead colleagues. And despite that, a Mujaheed was able to shot dead one of the Junta soldier.

On the second day, the Junta troops repeated the operation using two combat helicopter. As soon as they passed through the first Mujahedeen point, they became the target of bullets firing which caused three Junta soldiers death. The Mujahedeen then blow four bombs which caused many casualties in the Junta ranks. The same region was the theatre of many Mujahedeen operations during the month of April and in particular at the beginning of the month among them:

— 13 Junta soldiers were shot dead. As a result the Junta troops started bombarding the region from the National road as well as from the secondary routes.

— 7 Junta soldiers were killed when the Junta troops tried to approach the region.

— 21 junta soldiers were killed in when the Junta troops tried to "comb" the region.

— 3 junta soldiers were killed in a bomb explosion near Ouled Yahyia (El Ansour).

— On the 15/04/95, two Junta collaborators from Boubazile were killed in the region of El Milia. It is to note that one of the two have actively taken part with the Junta troops in many combing operations. As usual, the Junta took revenge on civilians and took 11 of them. Some were killed and some are still prisoner in the Junta hands.

— On the 14/06/95 at half past five in the afternoon near the locality of Belhadef, a group of Mujahedeen from the AIS have executed an operation in which three junta soldiers were killed, a Kalashikov and a loader. All this operation took about a minute and took place at about 200 meters from a Junta barracks. The Junta took revenge on civilians by killing two and wounding another.

Skikda province (wilaya):

The mujahedeen of the AIS have executed many operations in the province of Skikda among them:

— On the 03/03/95, the mujahedeen have set an ambush to a landrover Junta vehicle using bombs in the region of Kerkara. The result was three Junta soldiers dead amongst them an officer with the rank of lieutenant.

— A Junta collaborators were executed in the region of Bounafra on the 08/03/95.

— In the region of kanouah the Mujahedeen were victim of a Junta night attack. One of the brother was slightly wounded. After the medical aid, the brother went back to the place of the attack and shot dead a junta officer having a rank of lieutenant. The brother rejoined his base safely.

— On the 10/03/95 and in the region of Ouled Attia, the Mujahedeen have executed the Junta chief of the armed militia.

— On the 21/04/95 and in the locality of Boukaroun, the Mujahedeen have attack Junta soldiers barracks. There were heavy crossfire and the Mujahedeen retreated safely.

Constantine province:

— On the 28/05/95 and in the locality of Sidi M'sid, the Mujahedeen from the AIS have attacked a Junta vehicle of Patrol make using explosives. 8 to 10 Junta soldiers were killed.

— On the 01/06/95 the Mujahedeen have attacked a roadblock set up by four Junta soldiers at the entrance of Larbi Ben M'hidi street. Three were killed and the fourth jumped from the bridge which was not far from the roadblock.

Mila province (Wilaya):

On the 19/05/95 in the locality of Bani Sabih, a group of Mujahedeen from the AIS was the target of a Junta troops attack. Brother Abu Yousef has won martyrdom incha Allah and the rest of the brother withdraw safely. On the very next day, an intense battle took place between the Mujahedeen and the Junta troops in which five Junta soldiers were killed and five wounded. In the

Mujahedeen side, brothers Amar and Ali were hit by hand grenades. may Allah accept them as martyrs.

Guelma province (Wilaya):

— On the 11/04/95, in the mountain of Houara, an intense crossfire took place between a group of three Mujahedeen and a patrol of Junta gendarmes. Two of the Mujahedeen retreated from the place and went to wait on the road leading to the crossfire place. The Mujaheed who stayed shot dead one Junta gendarme and wounded two others. When the Junta reinforcement came, the two Mujahedeen killed six Junta soldiers and wounded few others.

Batna province (wilaya):

Three bomb disposers were killed and a Junta vehicle was hit on the road which relate Merouana and Seriana.

OPINION: Dr Francois Burgat

In this section, "The Enlightenment" tries to present different views on the Algerian situation in order for the reader to grasp a wider picture of its complexity. However, views presented in this section do not necessary represent those of the Editorial team.

In this issue, Dr BURGAT's opinion on the Algerian situation is presented in the form of an interview which he gave to the magazine of the FIS, "El Mounkidh" which was published in its last issue (No 6 of June 95).

Dr Francois Burgat is an expert in the Muslim world and doing research on this subject at the French CNRS (Centre National de Research Scientifique) at the "Institute of Research and Studies on the Arab and Muslim world" in Aix-en-Provence (France).

Dr Burgat is the author of many books and publications amongst them: L'Islamisme au Maghreb: La voix du Sud, 1988 (translated to Arabic in 1992).

— The Islamic movement in North Africa (English version of the precedent with added parts) 1993.

— Il Fundamentalismo islamico, 1995

— L'islamisme en face, 1995

— La Libye, 1995 (collection "Que sais-je?")

El Mounkidh: Mr Burgat, as an expert on the Arab and Islamic affairs how do you evaluate the Western response to the "National contract" signed in Rome?

Francois Burgat: In France, the Rome agreement has strongly hit the credibility to the "eradicators" theses which were supported by the government (French) and a large majority of the French political and intellectual circles. It (the agreement) has emphasised the extreme political isolation of the military in power in Algiers and has demonstrated that a large majority of the Algerian voters were ready to search for a political solution to the crises which originated by the annulation of the elections in January 1992, which means going back to the "ballot box way" with the engagement of respecting its verdict.

The signature of the "Rome agreement" has an effect of initiating a slow but real movement of re-positioning of the government and the French elite. The foreign minister Alain Juppe first, the minister of Defense later and finally the President Mitterrand have clearly expressed their agreement. However, the hardliner core which was incarnated by the then interior minister Pasqua has not move and the prime-minister Balladur did not want to contradict them (hardliners). The Presidential electoral campaign have subsequently freezed all evolution. No candidate dared advance in the field of a normalisation of the relation with the FIS of which the public opinion was known to be hostile to. For the intellectuals, the Rome agreement has accelerated an evolution which was already perceptible. Pierre Bourdieu, a well known sociologist in France and one of the two animators of the "Committee of support for the Algerian intellectuals" (Comite de Soutient aux intelectuels Algeriens), who at first has made a very unilateral reading on the political violence in Algeria, has spectacularly changed his vision of the crisis and has made a public appel to support the dynamic initiated by the agreement. The audio-visual media have, however remain persistent under the control of the "eradication" tendency which has launched a strong offensive against the Rome agreement by propagating at pic hours, the smoke-screen of Mrs Khalida Messaoudi's "analysis". The aptitude of the islamist tendency to make its thesis heard, has been very weak for at least two raisons. The extreme partiality of the media, which goes without saying, and another raison which needs to be said is that the coordination between the other signatories of the agreement, has stayed very weak up to today. It would, probably be useful that a bureau or a branch which will represent in a unified way, the signatories of the agreement, be open in the european capitals and those who know how to communicate with the western opinion, will systematically exercise their talent. This will help journalists who are unsatisfied by the present situation — their number is increasing each day — to have access to a less manipulated information than that coming from Algiers and which remains to be the sole source — or almost — for the big media.

El Mounkidh: Some analysts have put the "Algerian eradicators" amongst the losers of the French presidential elections. How is it? Do you think that the new president is going to reposition the French policy on Algeria? and in which sense?

Francois Burgat: It is very hard to say if the presidential elections will mark the "eradicators defeat". The most it can be said at this hour when I am answering your questions, is that the candidate who was supported by Pasqua was eliminated and that the position of the main supporter of the new president, which has himself become a prime-minister (Juppe), has clearly expressed his adhesion to the logic of the Rome agreement. I do strongly believe that France should reposition her policy toward Algeria and the sooner the better. What is difficult to predict is the rhythm of the change which in my point of view is ineluctable.

El Mounkidh: It has been said on the convergence of the French and American positions on the Algerian crisis. What is it exactly?

Francois Burgat: The American position is globally more realistic than that of the French. The US have not so far, reacted to the Algerian pressures to expel Anwar Haddam. But they (the US) remain very sensitive to the dominating "line" in France.

El Mounkidh: What does it mean for you an Islamic State?

Francois Burgat: I am not a muslim. I do not consider myself an expert on Islam but merely an observer of the political dynamics in the Arab world who is attentive in trying to report as objective as possible. My definition of what would be an "Islamic State" may not satisfy you but from my observer point of view, an "Islamic State" will be before anything else, a State in which a large majority of Algerians will recognise themselves in it. A State where the leadership elite will have an infinitely much larger popular base than that which the few Generals who maintain themselves in power by violence and manipulation of the western public opinion, may have.

El Mounkidh: what would be the internal and external difficulties that an "Islamic State" in Algeria, will face?

Francois Burgat: when they (Islamists) reach the power, thing which I do not doubt, the Algerian Islamists will have a considerable responsibility because the rest of the world, in particular Arab (world), will have their eyes fixed on them, waiting for the first mistake, the first radical deviation, in order to discredit the other Islamist formations. There will not be a shortage of provocations. They (Islamists) will have many adversaries in the Arab world as well as in Europe and the US. They (Islamists) could however, rely on a substantial support of the population, which in economical terms constitute an essential advantage.

Egypt

Mubarak Delivers 23 Jul Revolution Speech

NC2207104095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0810 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak marking the 43d anniversary of the 23 July Revolution at the Conference Hall in Alexandria—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Brothers and sisters: The 23 July Revolution was one of the greatest revolutions in human history. It helped spread freedom and independence to many countries that had suffered under the yoke of colonization. The 23 July Revolution stood by the fraternal Arab and African people, backing their struggle for independence and national liberation with a spirit of brotherhood that rose above selfishness and shunned domination and containment. Thus, it was only natural that Egypt, from the beginning, held this attitude toward fraternal Sudan, Egypt's twin and life partner. The revolution had been in power for four months when Egypt asked the British Government to end the bilateral British-Egyptian rule of Sudan. We wanted the Sudanese people to exercise self-rule in a transitional phase, while the British and Egyptian forces withdrew. It would then determine its own future.

This historic position of the Egyptian revolution, which gave preference to Sudan in the withdrawal of British forces from Egypt, was different from the Egyptian political forces' positions, which believed that Sudan was part of the Kingdom of Egypt and had no right to hold referendum or have self-determination. There were even Sudanese national forces that believed in and adhered to the unity of the people of the north and south Nile Valley. The 23 July Revolution's short-term goal was to separate the issue of Sudan from the withdrawal of British forces from Egypt. However, the 23 July Revolution also realized Sudan's right to national independence and its ability maintain relations with Egypt in accordance with a democratic referendum expressing the Sudanese people's will. Under these circumstances, Egypt strongly resisted the feverish foreign attempts to separate south Sudan from north Sudan. It insisted on Sudan's unity and on guarantees of overall justice and equality for the Sudanese, in the north and in the south.

With the same fierceness, Egypt resisted the suspect attempts to cause divisions among the Sudanese factions and their leaders. It made a great, sincere effort so that Sudan's factions and political party leaders would unite on a position that backed self-determination.

When the Sudanese people chose independence, revolutionary Egypt respected the Sudanese people's wish.

It was the first country to recognize the independent Sudan. 'Abd-al-Nasir announced: Egypt does not fear an independent Sudan. However, Egypt fears an occupied Sudan. Securing Sudan's independence guarantees Egypt's independence. [applause]

Since then, the July Revolution's spirit on the Sudan issue has been the basic pillar of Egypt's policies toward that fraternal country.

Egypt has not intervened in internal Sudanese issues. Spurred on by good-neighborliness, ties of blood kinship, and by the life-giving Nile bloodline that has eternally bonded us, our first priority was to provide as much assistance as possible to the fraternal Sudanese people.

When joint contributions to projects of mutual benefit have been necessary, Egypt has willingly and amicably shouldered the greater part of the burden. Indeed, at one time it put the interests of fraternal Sudan before its own. It felt that the two countries' interests were the same and that for many reasons, Sudan's circumstances gave it priority.

However, the current Khartoum regime's hostile and strange actions against Egypt and its unacceptable allegations that Egypt wants to dominate Sudanese decisionmaking are untrue, undeserved, and lack reason and proof.

Based on its respect for the rights of an independent Sudan and its firm adherence not to meddle in other countries' domestic affairs, Egypt has never tried to dictate any particular position or policy to Sudan.

Even on the Hala'ib issue—Egyptian territory by treaty and geography—Egypt did not provoke the dispute. The dispute was provoked by Khartoum's regime because it imagined that the Hala'ib issue could be used to occupy the Sudanese people and distract them from the country's conditions, which have deteriorated under the al-Bashir-al-Turabi rule.

We have no problem with the fraternal Sudanese people nor will we ever. Regardless of any folly it makes, the current Khartoum regime will not succeed in dragging Egypt to a position that is inimical to the interests of the Sudanese people.

Our problem is not with the Sudanese people, who are our southern kinsfolk. Our problem is with a scheming ruling regime that has turned that fraternal homeland into a den that exports terrorism to Egypt and other countries. It shelters murderers and criminals who spread destruction and sabotage throughout our Arab world. It attends vile, disgraceful conferences that seek to fulfill those rulers' morbid dreams of installing themselves as imams and caliphs in an international state extending from Algeria in the west to Sudan in the southeast.

None of their morbid dreams will come true. They are full of conceit and no longer know the limits of their abilities. The Khartoum regime should have paid attention to the problems of the millions of sons of the fraternal Sudanese people, who are devastated by starvation every year, instead of wasting its efforts in exporting false dreams to its neighbors. And, it is even more painful and ridiculous is that these misled, lying individuals threaten the Egyptian people over the Nile water. They cannot and will not do anything. However, we wonder what policy, ethics, and religion give these people the right to threaten the Egyptian people, even though their statements are untrue and make no sense. How could they dare to even verbally threaten Egypt when they cannot do anything? Those who are now holed up in Khartoum, leading an isolated regime whose ties with its brothers and neighbors have been severed, know that there are limits to patience. Egypt will not remain silent vis-a-vis a neighbor that has resorted to betrayal and conspiracy, made Sudan a base for international terrorism, and sunk so low as to become involved in a vile assassination conspiracy. [applause]

Regardless of the consequences, Egypt will not accept a neighbor who does not respect the sanctity of neighborliness, the bonds of kinship, and who does not value the eternal, historical, and special ties linking the Egyptian and Sudanese people. We will not accept a neighbor that turned fraternal Sudan into a den for plotting against Egypt and other Arab countries. If we are committed to not interfering in the affairs of others, we have reasons that make it necessary to fight terrorism on all fronts. [applause]

Brothers and sisters: What happened in Addis Ababa reveals the implications of a major criminal scheme that international terrorism harbors for Egypt. However, Egypt will be the solid rock on which the schemes and dreams of those who plan to devastate and cause chaos in the region will flounder. Terrorism will be decimated in Egypt, and, God willing, it will end on this good earth, which will remain a safe, stable country forever. [applause]

On this soil, in this great homeland, the dreams of empires were shattered; the faithful people, who throughout history waged courageous national struggles, opened the doors of freedom to many people. They will never give in to mercenary gangs ruled by an oppressive clique that distorts God's religion, works against the people's interests and devotes efforts to serving Satan. We will not be lenient with terrorism and we will not tolerate its supporters and sponsors. However, we will continue to abide by the law and legal principles, safeguard the sovereignty of the judiciary, and cherish democracy and human rights.

There will be sacrifices and there will be martyrs. But Egypt will continue to march on the right path, taking steady steps and raising the banner of victory. The people know their course and have defined their goals. No one can deceive or mislead them again.

Brothers and sisters: Regarding the conspiracy that targeted me, all persons are mortals, but the homeland is immortal. The homeland is immortal while we are mortals. Regardless of the importance of our roles, we are mere pieces of a noble history of a glorious nation that dates back 7,000 years. This nation will forever remain a good homeland, protected by God's care. This homeland will be prepared for a better future by its posterity.

We are mortal. We perform our roles in a continuing march. The homeland remains. This sunk into my conscience when I chose my path as a fighter defending the homeland's dignity and as a soldier dedicating his life to Egypt and sworn to protect it.

Those who have dedicated their lives to their homelands and who have learned in the school of sacrifice the meaning of sacrifice in defense of the homeland's sanctities are not afraid of death or martyrdom; they do not avoid their duties because of the magnitude of sacrifice. [applause]

I have lived my life as a fighter that responds to the call of duty. I am proud that as a soldier, I performed my duty honorably and honestly, I contributed to defending my homeland and liberating its soil, and I participated in Egypt's greatest and most immortal battles. When fate dictated, I took on the honor of responsibility and the trust of power in difficult circumstances. I see this post as an extension of my duty as a fighter, sworn to defend his homeland and protect every inch of its soil. I expected immense dangers. I have realized the scope of the impending dangers. I knew that we would wage a ferocious battle so that Egypt could restore its security and stability. I accepted the honor of responsibility in line with my duty as a soldier who does not hesitate to offer his soul in defense of his homeland. [applause]

Brothers, life and fate are in the hands of God. Human wishes cannot decide these matters. Nevertheless, the honor of bearing the responsibility and duty entrusted to us make it necessary for us to be capable of confronting the challenge, being qualified to fulfill this homeland's aspirations, and being its loyal soldiers.

What happened in Addis Ababa was an expected occurrence that should not cause fear or dismay. It strengthens our resolve to fight terrorism at home and abroad until we destroy it. We must fight its hired puppets at home who have agreed to betray themselves and their homeland. We must fight the scheming terrorist leaders abroad who labor under the delusions of morbid dreams and who have ruined the interests of Muslim nations that need security and prosperity.

Brothers, sisters: I praise God. I thank this great, loyal nation. I praise God for His great beneficence. He is the first and last. What He ordains cannot be stopped. His will cannot be thwarted. Fate and destiny are in His hands. We live or die with His permission. No human can thwart His wishes. May He be praised. He is the best supporter, best protector, and best succorer. I praise God and thank Him for giving us the true resolve and strong faith to perform our duty and carry the message with which He has entrusted us. We will safeguard this homeland's security and future and will not veer from our duty regardless of the necessary sacrifices.

I thank the great and loyal people who are united in defending the progress of a homeland that seeks light and aspires to prosperity and peace.

I thank a nation whose nobility is renewed in the face of hardship and which displays a strong determination to press ahead with the search for prosperity, a firm steadfastness that spurns treason and conspiracy, and which bravely resolves to defend its security regardless of the obstacles.

The Egyptian people have showered me with their sincere feelings, and this has strengthened my conviction that God willing, we will attain our aims despite all schemes and conspiracies, because we have a strong will that is capable of achieving miracles and because, in the face of hardship, we can muster Egypt's noble spirit. All of us are united as one man, a solid mass of devotion to this homeland who spurn divisions and infighting.

In response to the generous outflow of noble sentiments with which I was showered after the evil attack, I can only assure every Egyptian man and woman that I have devoted my life to this homeland. I will willingly sacrifice it [applause and shouts of support] to defend the homeland's security and future.

I thank a great nation that has taught its leaders wisdom, courage, and sacrifice.

I thank the Arab brothers and the friends who have supported Egypt in its fight against terrorism.

Brothers and sisters: Egypt is in good shape; it will not be harmed because this is God's promise and God does not renege on his promise. Egypt is in good shape because it has a national police [applause] capable of defending the homeland's security and stability, capable of protecting the safety and security of each citizen, and capable of confronting all the symbols of evil and hunting down the scattered forces of darkness.

Egypt is in good shape because it has valiant armed forces [applause] that have vowed to deter aggressors, cut off the hand of the usurpers, defend the homeland's national interests, and confront all challenges.

Egypt is in good shape because in its skies rise the minarets of the holy al-Azhar [applause], protecting Islam and illuminating its tolerance. Egypt is in good shape because in times of hardships and ordeals all Egyptians—Muslims and Copts [applause], intellectuals workers, youths and old men, men and women—form one impregnable body. The aggressors' intrigues will boomerang. Egypt will remain a safe homeland protected by God. The forces of darkness will not prevail over the march of enlightenment. The forces of destruction will not impede construction. We will exterminate terrorism at home. We will paralyze its arm abroad. We will open the road wide and safely for the Egyptian march of progress—a march that will build and plant and light the torches of righteousness.

I ask Almighty God to help us in the pursuit of righteousness and to guide us on the correct course. He is the best lord and the best supporter. May God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Mubarak Interviewed on Sudan, Peace Talks

NC2107205295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that Egypt reserves the right to respond with all possible means if the Sudanese regime attempts to strike at Egyptian national security.

In the second installment of his interview with AL-AHRAM, to be published tomorrow, Saturday, Mubarak points out that there are committees following up on the situation, noting that his recent meeting with the prime minister, the defense minister, and the Command Council discussed the options and alternatives.

The president described relations with Saudi Arabia as "excellent," adding that contrary to what some people say, it is not true that Saudi Arabia has asked its citizens not to visit Egypt. Mubarak added that he holds King Fahd in great esteem, adding that King Fahd is always ready to back Egypt and its people.

Touching on the situation in Bosnia, President Mubarak called for lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Government and for holding an Islamic summit to adopt resolute decisions to end this major tragedy.

Speaking about the Middle East peace march, President Mubarak pointed out that he will meet soon with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to resolve the differences over empowerment, elections, the status of Hebron, the distribution of water, and the tasks of the Israeli forces.

The president said that he will discuss with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad the obstacles obstructing the Syrian-Israeli track. He hoped an agreement will be reached before the end of the year. He noted the big U.S. role in this connection.

The president expressed his optimism over the restoration of Arab solidarity and the success of some efforts to clear the atmosphere. He stressed the need to prepare the climate before any Arab summit is called.

Mubarak reaffirmed that Egypt's leading role in the region will not diminish when peace comes, since there are established principles that give it this responsibility.

Replying to a question on the continued Sudanese campaign of false allegations, he said that Egypt reserves the right to use all possible methods if the ruling clique in Khartoum persists in its policies or tries to threaten Egyptian national security. He pointed out that Egypt differentiates between the Sudanese people and the ruling regime, because the people are powerless and are suffering bitterly as a result of this regime's policies. He added that Egypt holds on to the values of dignity and of protecting the land and national security and that it has long been patient vis-a-vis the insults and the repeated provocations of that regime, its encroachment on the land and its exporting of terrorism.

The president is surprised at the Sudanese regime's false accusations that Egyptian planes committed aggression in Hala'ib and dropped some bombs. Not a single Egyptian aircraft has taken off carrying a bomb for anyone, he said. He added that Hala'ib is 100 percent Egyptian as certified by history, geography, and the maps.

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt has no expansionist ambitions in Sudan and that it has never contemplated expansion at the expense of its neighbors. He added that the ruling regime in Khartoum interpreted Egypt's patience with their policies as weakness rather than a desire to protect relations between the two states and two peoples and to safeguard their joint interests and destiny. He added that there are high-level committees studying the matter and considering the options and alternatives of how to respond to the Sudanese policies. He referred in this connection to his recent meeting with the prime minister, the defense minister, and the Command Council to discuss the options.

The president said that he does not make rash or "quixotic" decisions, adding that his decisions are always governed by the public interest, which he always observes.

He said that the Egypt of al-Azhar knows the real meaning of Islam, while those in Khartoum talk about Islam and do the opposite.

Talking about the findings of the investigation the Ethiopian authorities are conducting into the circumstances of the Addis Ababa incident, he pointed out that Egypt has confirmed information about the incident but that it will keep silent until the findings of the investigation are announced.

Touching on Egypt's efforts to mobilize world support for the effort to defeat the terrorist phenomenon, he said that his contacts with the majority of heads of state have resulted in some countries going back on their decision to harbor terrorists and starting to look into the matter seriously. Among these are the United States, Switzerland, France, and Germany.

The president warned any state that harbors a terrorist that he will be the nucleus for a terrorist cell that will multiply into numerous cells and turn against those who shelter them.

Commenting on the Arab-Israeli peace march, President Mubarak pointed out that he will meet soon with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to resolve the differences between the two sides on the elections, the status of the city of Hebron, the tasks of the Israeli troops and their deployment, the transfer of the remaining civilian authorities, and the distribution of water.

Touching on the Syrian-Israeli track, President Mubarak expressed his optimism that the two sides will reach an agreement before the end of the year. He said that the United States is making a great effort in this connection.

Mubarak stressed the need to return to the 4 June 1967 line, even though there are some problems in determining that line. The Palestinians say that there is a part of Golan called Palestinian Golan. He said that he will discuss all these things with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as soon as they meet.

President Mubarak described Egyptian-Saudi relations as "special and excellent," adding that these relations are absolutely unshaken by any individual incident or passing misunderstanding.

Mubarak expressed his deep esteem for the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, adding that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques shares feelings with the Egyptians and that he is always willing to help Egypt and its people whether we ask him or not.

He added that some people's claims that Saudi Arabia had issued a statement advising its citizens not to visit Egypt are not true. He confirmed that ties to the two people are blood ties and that the Saudis in Egypt are in their country and among their family and brothers.

Asked about the possibility of holding an Arab summit meeting under specific conditions to restore Arab solidarity, he emphasized the need to prepare the atmosphere before calling for an Arab summit. He is optimistic about restoring Arab solidarity.

The president said that Egypt is making great efforts in cooperation with Saudi Arabia to clarify the atmosphere. He gave the example of what happened with Yemen, Kuwait, and Jordan, and he noted that this effort needs more time. He said that clearing the Arab atmosphere and rearranging the Arab household has priority in Egyptian foreign policy. He stressed that although the gulf resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is still wide, Arab reconciliation is a pan-Arab necessity and in the interest of all Arab countries, provided that it is real and not just slogans and high-sounding words.

The president said that Egypt attaches importance to enhancing the Arab League's role, which is the first home of the Arabs through which many disputes can be settled and positions coordinated to serve the joint Arab interests.

President Husni Mubarak affirmed that joint Arab action should not be viewed as being against Israel or any other state, but rather for the sake of building a stable and sound Arab entity that consolidates stability in the entire Middle East and strengthens constructive and stable relations with its neighbors, including Iran, as long as all Arabs and non-Arabs are committed to good neighborliness and legitimacy and refrain from using violence in their international relations.

The president added that stability of the Arab situation is bound to consolidate regional stability and cooperation and eventually world stability.

Touching on the situation in Bosnia, Mubarak called for lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia. He called on the Islamic foreign ministers to make resolute decisions and try to get the concerned states to intervene quickly, even if this requires an Islamic summit, so that the world will feel that there is an Islamic group capable of making decisions, taking strong measures, and influencing the world situation. Mubarak warned the European states that the continued deterioration in Bosnia will help create a center for extremism that will certainly affect them.

Commenting on speculations by some political analysts that Egypt's regional role will diminish once peace is achieved, Mubarak said that this analysis is based on a poor assessment of the past and faulty view of the future, which assumes that Egypt's role and leadership of Arab states is based on the existence of an Arab-Israeli dispute that brought the Arabs together against a specific party. Mubarak added that there are historic, political, social, economic, security, and cultural elements in the Egyptian political, social, and economic structure that provide the foundation for an Arab structure. This is what has made Egypt shoulder that responsibility, he said.

He continued that Egypt's role in the previous stage did not depend on the existence of the Arab-Israeli dispute. It was created by certain elements that enabled Egypt to undertake that leading role in the Arab-Israeli dispute, both in peace and war, he said. He added that the establishment of peace in the Middle East will not limit or curb the weight Egypt carries at the regional level, because the elements and components that qualified Egypt for a leading role still exist, regardless of the nature of the coming stage.

Concluding his interview with AL-AHRAM, Mubarak said that Egypt does not fear the future. It looks to the future with confidence in its capabilities and preparedness to work seriously and compete honestly within the framework of international legitimacy and on firm political and social grounds, he said.

Musa Comments on London Conference on Bosnia

NC2107133395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1230 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—On the meetings of the Islamic Contact Group, Musa said the group will discuss a proposal to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia as well as ways to stop the Serb aggression on the safe havens and territories in Bosnia, as defined in the peace plan. Musa noted that the meetings of the Islamic Contact Group coincide with another international meeting in London, which will be attended by European states and countries that have troops in the safe havens, such as Ukraine, Turkey, and Bangladesh. It was preceded by another meeting yesterday attended by the defense ministers and chiefs of staff of the United States, Britain, and France. So far, he added, no specific measures have been agreed upon because of the usual split in the Western stance, which will lead to inaction.

The foreign minister noted that the West has no choice, but to use NATO troops to end the Serb onslaught or let the Bosnian people assume responsibility for defending themselves by themselves and by those who join them.

Musa explained that Malaysia put forward proposals and Egypt submitted a proposal to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia. The group will discuss all the proposals relating to this issue, because the only item on its agenda is the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. Musa stressed that the United Nations and NATO must do away with split decisions and make one decision, namely, to defend Bosnia against the Serb aggression that runs counter to the law and Security Council resolutions. Musa pointed out that it has been proven that the Bosnian Serbs are defying the Security Council, which is the authority concerned with preserving international peace and security.

Musa pointed out that the Security Council resolutions named various areas in Bosnia safe havens, to which UN forces have been dispatched. But these areas and the UN forces present there have come under attack, something that is a flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions and that requires the adoption of a clear-cut stance. He added: But no such stance has been adopted, which proves that different standards apply to each case. For instance, we see the Security Council resolutions against Libya and Iraq being applied while the Council does not apply its resolutions against Serbia, which mocks these resolutions. It also proves there are double standards in the handling of events, something that is unacceptable and must be vocally objected to on international forums.

Regarding Russia's demand to give diplomatic methods a chance to solve the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Musa asked: What does Russia mean by solving the problem through diplomatic methods? Have these methods stopped the Serb onslaught? He added that Russia must prove it can solve the problem by diplomatic means, noting that this Russian talk is harmful and will not lead to respect for the UN authority and its prestige. He added that it is no longer possible to deceive people by saying diplomatic means will solve the problem, while the Serb aggression continues. He pointed out that the Russian stance is not sound. It will serve no purpose and achieve no peace or lead to respect for the UN resolutions.

Further on Musa's Comments

NC2207132695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1110 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 22 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the resolutions of the international Contact Group's conference on Bosnia held in London yesterday as half measures and as merely media hype for a hesitant stance. In a statement in Geneva today, he said that the commitment of the international Contact Group states is still unclear since their compromise. He said that "even this compromise is not positive." He said: We are not satisfied with these results because they are a compromise and the Serbs may consider it as an amendment to the peace plan. He said that Srebrenica and Zepa are safe areas and are part of Bosnian territory. The Security Council must emphasize this and shoulder its responsibility.

Musa pointed out that despite its weakness, the Islamic states' stance reflects decisiveness. It considers the Security Council resolution embargoing arms for Bosnia as inapplicable to the Islamic states and they will not honor it.

Musa: OIC Considers Bosnia Arms Embargo Lifted

NC2207173895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1650 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned here this evening from Geneva after a two-day visit. While there, he led Egypt's delegation to the emergency meeting of the Islamic Contact Group [of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, OIC] to discuss the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina in light of the continued Serbian aggression on the safe areas.

Speaking upon arrival in Cairo, Musa stated that the London conference's decisions on Bosnia are half way solutions because they had not tackled the matter in full. He noted that the London conferees had asserted that they would oppose the Serbs' entry into Gorazde with land and air power, but left the other safe areas without aid or assistance. He added that the London conference, as the Bosnian prime minister has stated, has taken half measures.

Musa added that the split in the European stand regarding the Bosnian problem is due to the Russian stand, which believes that the solution should be made by diplomatic methods, something that we disagree with.

On the Bosnian Government's belittling of the importance of the London conference and its call for lifting the arms embargo on it, the foreign minister said that the conference's decisions to use air strikes or resort to a NATO reply are things that experience has shown to be ineffective and insincere. He added: The main issue is for the Bosnians to be able to practice their legitimate right to self-defense by lifting the arms embargo, which we at the Geneva conference considered as lifted.

Asked about the possibility that the Islamic states will help Bosnia militarily, Musa said that the meetings of the Contact Group had not discussed military issues. However, he pointed out that the Islamic states have peacekeeping troops there operating through the UN. Should the international organization fail—and it seems it has—things will be different, he added.

Foreign Hands Seen in Egyptian-Sudanese Crisis

NC2107200995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
19 Jul 95 p 9

[News analysis by Salah-al-Din Hafiz: "The Foreign Elements in the Egyptian-Sudanese Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If it is necessary to monitor and trace the Egyptian and Sudanese rationale in the severe crisis that erupted recently as a result of the vile attempt on the life of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June, it is even more important and imperative to trace the foreign dimensions of this crisis.

We believe that the uniqueness of the eternal relations between Egypt and Sudan, which bind the two countries and peoples with very strong strategic, cultural, and human ties, always helps contain the temporary crises that develop between the two governments. Past experience shows how we succeeded together in rising above the emotional fits that caused or were associated with some of these crises, even when these emotional fits went beyond the impermissible point of threatening to obstruct the flow of the Nile, wage war, or export terrorism.

The two peoples of the Nile Valley are capable of resolving their cold and hot issues adeptly and quicker than by acting with hot emotions, unrestrained tongues, and irrational slogans. But this happens only when the two peoples are left alone with each other, without the foreign interference, incitement, or scheming that seem to have succeeded in the current crisis, where others have failed before.

First of all, we would like to make an important remark. The foreign parties inciting and interfering in the present crisis all concur on one major principle and act on it, even though their objectives seem to clash or be far apart. This principle is total hostility to the unity of the Nile valley and antipathy toward any attempt, old or new, to unite Egypt and Sudan. They do not want the two countries to build a formidable strategic entity with political, economic, human, and military influence that extends from Juba in the deep south of Africa to Alexandria on the Mediterranean. Such an entity might strongly attract Libya in the west and form an immense triangle that, with its strategic location, human talent, and economic resources, would constitute the major influential power in the region, or rather a primary superpower that would engage in the competition in the coming century.

If this strategic entity is a "dream" for people like us, it is a nightmare that nags many others and threatens their influence and interests. Hence, they obstruct attempts to turn the dream into a reality by planting mines that explode into periodic crises between the various sides of the triangle, particularly Egypt and Sudan.

What draws attention in this matter is the existence of foreign centers that play significant roles in heightening tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. The particulars of these roles have started to become clear. They push one side into assuming a hostile stance toward the other—that is toward itself—and incite that side against the other—again against himself. Their methods are numerous—from leaking information, secrets, or even rumors to the weapons of terrorism, inciting violence, and arming extremists to shake the stability in both Egypt and Sudan. Thanks to miscalculations, these foreign centers sometimes found spies and penetrated institutions, governments, and sometimes influenced policies and then succeeded in fanning the crisis in relations between the twin brothers, as the case is in the current, painful situation.

Starting with the first foreign center in this crisis, we say that it was initially formed through Iran's infiltration into Sudan thanks to the policy of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of the National Islamic Front, the primary power in Sudan, who turned to Tehran for help from the "Islamic revolution" to support his big dream of turning Sudan into a base for building "international Islamic fundamentalism."

In its current situation since the Desert Storm crisis, it has not been easy for Iraq to see its major Iranian rival expanding its political, religious, and military influence outside the Gulf in the depths of Africa, specifically in Sudan and on Egypt's borders. It could not stand still in submission while its rival's influence was growing. It joined in, sometimes cooperating and sometimes competing.

To sum up, a third axis comprising Sudan, Iran, and Iraq is now evident. It is working very actively; the three countries agree on some objectives and differ over others. The situations in the three countries are similar, such as their feeling of international isolation and encirclement. At the same time, the three have remarkably similar situations, policies, and other practices.

Is it not remarkable that their systems are so similar as to be startling, including their adoption of systems of armed military militias that embrace extremist and fundamentalist tendencies in known organizations, namely the Popular Defense Regiments in Sudan, the Revolutionary Guard in Iran, and the Saddam Fedayeen Forces in Iraq? Is it not also remarkable that all three countries believe in "exporting violence" through covert and overt political and propaganda organs and through military and paramilitary organizations? Iran's theory of exporting the "Islamic" revolution is similar to Iraq's theory of exporting the "pan-Arab" revolution and Sudan's theory of exporting the "pan-Arab-Islamic" revolution.

Thus under the rule of the "military-religious" duo, Sudan's territories have become a spacious arena for radical alliances, fed by Iran on one side and Iraq on the other despite their old differences that erupted in an eight-year war. But the convergence of these transient objectives has helped them to coexist and cooperate.

Regrettably, this "Arab-Islamic" axis was established on opportunist, pragmatic, and short-sighted bases. Behind the apparent "cohesiveness" that appears today are all their political, religious, sectarian, military, and strategic contradictions. Look at the major bloody and historic contradiction between Iraq and Iran, the Sunni-Shiite contradiction between the three countries, and the contradiction between Iran's plan for exporting the Islamic revolution to control the Islamic world, al-Turabi's similar plan, which clashes fundamentally with the Iranian plan, and the Iraqi plan to annex neighboring countries. Look at the other ideological contradiction between the three parties: Iran's dream of "Islamic radicalism" under the leadership of Shiite organizations is exemplified by Hizballah; Iraq's dream of "Arab radicalism" under the leadership of leftist organizations is exemplified by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and Dr. al-Turabi is trying to blend the ideological political contradictions in order to come up with what he is calling the international Islamic fundamentalist army, which embraces all the terrorist, criminal, and propaganda organizations running from al-Jihad to the Vanguards of Conquest, the Islamic Salvation front, and the armed Islamic Group.

The three countries are, very regrettably, trying to implement their plans by starting with harassing and besieging Egypt in order to destroy and possibly devour it out of revenge, each according to its own objectives and its disputes with or reasons for hostility to Egypt. This means that disputes with Egypt are the common cause that brings them together. Penetrating Egypt is evidently the objective of this axis. What a repulsive oddity.

Iran is hostile to Egypt because it stood with Iraq during the bitter eight years of the first Gulf war and because it has supported the Arab Gulf countries against Iran's expansionist schemes to impose its hegemony there.

Iraq under Saddam Husayn's leadership is hostile to Egypt because it opposed its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and because it joined the international coalition forces in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Moreover, Egypt opposed Iraq's attempt to impose Saddam's hegemony on the small neighboring countries.

The al-Turabi-al-Bashir alliance found in its Iranian and Iraqi allies support for its hostile policy toward Egypt — even though the latter was the first country to support that regime — and help in implementing its dream of penetrating Egypt with the armies of international fundamentalism so as to "purge its filth," as they put it.

Thus, the objectives of the three parties have converged. They hate Egypt and want revenge on it. But there are major contradictions between them that will definitely explode at the first sign of differences over concepts or interests. We believe that had this tripartite axis been really Islamic and Arab then it would not have fallen into its current conflict with Egypt, the vanguard of Arabism and the center of the Islamic renaissance, even if there were political differences.

Now we come to the second external axis, which we believe has played and will play a major role in complicating the Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the past, present, and future. By this we mean the U.S.-Israeli-European axis, which has inherited the doctrine of the colonialist European empires of the past centuries. This doctrine is based on frustrating and resisting any step to achieve Arab unity in general and the unity of the Nile Valley in particular; constantly instigating and inciting schisms between the Sudanese and Egyptian peoples, beginning with the forced withdrawal of the Egyptian Army from Sudan last century; fragmenting the eternal unity between the two; and planting the seeds of suspicion and paranoia with the ultimate objective of sowing the artificial borders with explosive differences that may blow up at any time. An example of this is the controversy over Hala'ib, the chronic hot spot along a border that runs for 1,300 km.

What is certain is that it does not please the U.S.-Israeli-European axis, the heir of the colonialist doctrine, to see a reunion of the Nile Valley between Egypt and Sudan, let alone Libya, which if included would foster a regional superpower with tremendous resources and huge influence in the heart of the Arab world—to use the old name—or the Middle East, in its new definition! Thus, it is neither strange nor surprising for this entity to play the role of the primary instigator inciting hostility and disputes between Cairo and Khartoum and applying pressure on both sisters until differences blow up!

If this axis has succeeded in nurturing a call for the separation of south Sudan and in arming the southern militias that have been fighting there for three decades, it is now trying to blow the Egyptian-Sudanese border crisis out of proportion so that Hala'ib will turn into a source of attrition for both countries, igniting northern Sudan and southern Egypt! If this axis declares day and night its antagonism to the ruling regime in Sudan for its political radicalism and religious fanaticism, it is also the same axis that has invited the leader of this radicalism to its imperial capital, Washington, and arranged for him official meetings and debates at the highest level in the Congress, as the leader of radical Islam, Sudan's strong man, and the potential leader of the Arab and Islamic world!

This axis places Sudan on the list of international terrorism and leaks periodic reports about Khartoum's sponsorship of Islamic and political terrorist organizations, particularly those that infiltrate the Egyptian borders to engage in murders and horror. But it is this same axis that holds continuous talks—perhaps this very day—with representatives of these organizations within and outside Egypt, claiming that a superpower such as the United States, Europe, and, by proxy, Israel must not be surprised one day by this current's takeover of power in a key state such as Egypt, as was the case with Khomeyni in Iran in 1979.

If this axis sympathizes with and supports Egypt in its current crisis with Sudan, deep inside, perhaps through secret channels, it is still encouraging the ruling regime in Sudan to be antagonistic to Egypt. It also remains silent about the rising power of the tripartite axis of Iran, Iraq, and Sudan and turns a blind eye to the military presence and political influence of Iraq and Iran in this sensitive region. The purpose of this is to use it as a constant lever and a disturbing source of tension for Egypt on the one hand while on the other using this hardline Arab and Islamic influence in Khartoum as an additional justification for separating Sudan's "animist, Christian, and African" oppressed south from its Islamic and Arab north, the dominating, religiously and nationalistically fanatical part, modeled after the Iranian and Iraqi examples!

Some may see in this analysis a true example of a conspiratorial interpretation of the events around us, which may be true. For I see the strings and lines of the conspiracy converging around Egypt to undermine its role, hamper its will, and exhaust its power, thus leaving the arena vacant for the new leadership of the region: Israel.

Have the fingers of these parties and the schemes of these axes converged in the Egyptian-Sudanese crisis, leaving a high-sounding echo and growing suspicions and uncertainties?

Possible Reunification of Islamic Groups Viewed

NC2107135595 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 13-19 Jul p 2

[Report by Umaymah 'Abd-al-Latif]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] AL-MUJAHIDUN, a bulletin published by the underground al-Jihad organisation earlier this week in Geneva praised al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah for carrying out the abortive attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa. An editorial by Jihad leader Ayman al-Zawahiri congratulated the followers of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of al-Jama'ah, for carrying out the operation. "It goes without saying that this work must have needed patience, preparation and a lot of effort which you exerted in silence, and then you carried out your attack," al-Zawahiri told 'Abd-al-Rahman's followers.

The al-Jihad statement appeared to accept for a fact the claim of responsibility for the assassination attempt made by al-Jama'ah last week, although there is no evidence to date that al-Jama'ah was actually responsible. Regardless of whether the claim is true or not, the al-Jihad statement, by congratulating al-Jama'ah, suggested that the two groups, which split in 1983, might be warming up to each other, to say the least. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Fu'ad 'Allam, a former chief of the State Security Investigation Department, said al-Jihad and al-Jama'ah were one group "whose tactic is to operate separately. But they would unite if they were in a position to seize power. It is only then that they will start settling their differences." But 'Allam believes that al-Jama'ah could not have carried out the Addis Ababa attempt without outside help. [passage omitted]

Nabil 'Abd-al-Fattah of the AL-AHRAM Centre for Political and Strategic Studies said the acts of violence carried out by al-Jama'ah during the past two years spurred al-Jihad's military wing, known as Tala'i al-Fath or Vanguards of Conquest, to launch attacks on security commanders and cabinet ministers. "The ideological differences between the two are not insurmountable since they agree on the target, which is power, and the approach, which is violence," he said. [passage omitted]

'Allam for his part believes that the danger posed by the two groups would be ended only if their "lifeline outside the country was cut off at the source."

"What has been done so far is a successful clampdown on their hideouts," 'Allam said, "but the forthcoming stage should witness a new strategy of attempting to infiltrate their ranks. Then the police would be able to know in advance the plans made by the top leaders who live in Europe."

Naval Exercise With Saudi Arabia Begins

NC2407105095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian and Saudi naval forces today started their week-long joint exercise codenamed Coral-1. The exercise, conducted within Saudi territorial water in the Red Sea, is part of Egyptian-Saudi military cooperation and comes within the context of the Egyptian Armed Forces' plan for joint exercises with friendly countries.

The goal of the exercise, in which various naval units from both navies are taking part, is to exchange experience in naval combat, boost Egyptian-Saudi cooperation and coordination methods in the Red Sea, and provide commanders with skills in how to control units, conduct combat activity, and use warning and electronic equipment.

Libya

VOA Report on Biological Weapons Ban Assailed

LD2207182895 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, al-Nasir [July] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American intelligence service radio, Voice of America, which reflects the American government's viewpoints last night broadcast a host of claims and false rumours on the implementation of the treaty banning the use and production of biological weapons in the world.

The report was compatible with the vicious campaign of disinformation and falsification being launched by America against many countries in the world which reject American tyrranical policy in the world and oppose its plans aimed at enslaving peoples, encroach on the sovereignty of other countries and direct their decisions for the service of American interests.

The American report included, amongst other things, claims against other countries of the world alleging

"Libya is seeking to obtain a capability enabling it to develop elements used in manufacturing and producing biological weapons".

This claims show that disinformation and falsification became a main feature of American foreign policy and that distortion became a necessary policy in America's dealings with the countries of the world. The whole world, historical facts, data compiled by all international agencies in this respect show that America is the biggest producer nuclear, chemical, biological, bacterial weapons and other secret weapons and the leading Western country benefiting from exporting internationally banned weapons to areas of tension. America enters fierce competions to win all deals of weapons so much so that it turned the world into nuclear, chemical, biological and chemical hell. American factories did not cease inventing the most deadly weapons [words indistinct] mankind adding to the pain being suffered by humanity, burying the will of good and injecting fear and terror to mankind. Furthermore, America harnessed the American [passage indistinct].

These foolish reports by the Voice of America radio are part of the policy of blackmail and attempts to impose American control and tutelage on the decision making process of other countries. These reports are not believed by anyone and they are so exposed that they can no longer fool the peoples of the world who are following the civilised efforts being undertaken by the Great Jamahiriyah for a better future for humanity. The Great Jamahiriyah submitted a pioneering civilised project to the U.N. aimed at the total elimination of weapons which threaten the annihilation and destrution of mankind. Furthermore, the Great Jamahiriyah promulgated the greater green charter of human rights safeguarding the humanity and dignity of the individual, banning all acts which may violate the freedom and right of mankind to live in peace and security and create a safe world where justice and prosperity prevail for a better future of mankind.

Newspaper Critical of PFLP Leader's Stance

LD2307154795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1140 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the AL-SHAMS newspaper published an article entitled: "At Last Habash Has Broken his Silence." Here is the text of the article:

Dr. George Habash, leader of the PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], in a statement circulated by news agencies, has surprised us by saying that dialogue between him and Yasir 'Arafat and between the PFLP and Fatah has been severed and that the struggle will continue until the establishment of the state of Palestine. People who are far away from the region and its events and are unaware of what takes place openly and in secret, and those who are naive, began to fear a real confrontation will take place in the region. In order that there will be no miscalculations and in order that efforts will not be made and time will not be wasted, it is useful to assure those who are concerned about the so-called peace process that no real confrontation will take place, because Habash and 'Arafat are in agreement on everything and neither of them has any reason to differ from the other. They both proceed from the same point and both strive to attain the same goal. It is our right to wonder: What is the reason for their differences so long as the aim is the same? What George Habash has declared is the continuation of the struggle until the establishment of the state of Palestine. 'Arafat himself raised this slogan and proceeds from this point. Therefore there is no difference between them and therefore there is no reason for any confrontation.

It would have been possible for George Habash to announce the continuation of the struggle until the liberation of Palestine. In this case, the confrontation would remain, and the conflict would remain genuine. But what Habash said was that the struggle would continue until the establishment of the state of Palestine. This applies to Gaza and Jericho. 'Arafat says that Gaza and Jericho constitute the Palestinian state, which could be applied to either Gaza or Jericho, separately; each of them, Habash and 'Arafat, could set up a state in Gaza and Jericho, and there should be no conflict as long as the slogan of liberating Palestine from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean sea has been dropped by everyone, including George Habash and the PFLP.

Which confrontation and which encounter could take place? And why should it take place? What would be the aim? What would be the result? And with whom would it take place?

The currently raised slogan of the continuation of the struggle until the establishment of the state of Palestine is no more than a trick intended to mislead the Arab masses who cling to any straw, even if it consists of empty and meaningless words, and even if it is a confrontation that only takes place in the imagination.

Everyone has dropped the slogan of liberating Palestine from the river to the sea, and everyone has surrendered to the enemy, and what is being circulated is no more than trickery, deception, fraud, and a type of electioneering, unless the news agencies which reported Dr. Habash's statement have distorted it, misled us, and given us different words from what the statement said.

In this case, no one can remove the news agencies' distortion and deception other than Dr. Habash himself.

Morocco

Chirac Invites King to France, Announces Aid

LD2107151495 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Christophe Boisbouvier, our special correspondent in Rabat, assesses Jacques Chirac's visit to Morocco:

[Boisbouvier] Exceptional relations between Paris and Rabat, and a joint initiative for a stability pact in the Mediterranean: At the end of Jacques Chirac's visit to Morocco, these are the two main ideas he expressed, with the rise of fundamentalism in the background.

To give what he calls a little extra [supplement d'ame] to the relations between the two countries, he has invited the King to Paris in November and announced that a Moroccan year is going to be organized in France soon, five years after the first aborted attempt at the time of the release of a certain book by Gilles Perrault, "Our Friend the King," about the prisons of the kingdom.

I shall be the champion of the Moroccans in the commercial negotiations with the European Union, the French president said. He seems to be prepared to pay the price for a real stowage of Morocco to the European continent.

In concrete terms, France has announced it will release exceptional funds in favor of Rabat: more than 2 billion francs this year, twice as much as it did over the previous years, because of the drought, among other things.

The only possible moot point is Western Sahara. The supporters of the annexation, no less, of the Sahara to Morocco — which include opposition leader Mohamed Bucetta — do not make any secret of the fact that they hope France will rally their position.

For the time being, Jacques Chirac remains determined: We support the ongoing UN process toward a referendum, he repeated tirelessly.

Chirac Speaks on Islam, Relations

LD2107122695 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between France and Morocco are good; this is the first conclusion from President Chirac's 36-hour visit to Rabat:

The French head of state is continuing his African tour in Cote d'Ivoire. He is expected at noon in Yamoussoukro, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's native village, which has become the political capital of Cote d'Ivoire. The Notre Dame de la Paix basilica was built in Yamoussoukro.

Yesterday, Jacques Chirac visited another place of worship — Casablanca's Hassan II mosque. The French president seized this opportunity to make a plea for a tolerant Islam:

[Begin Chirac recording] I thought about the 1.5 billion Muslims whom you represent, Your Majesty, as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization, and about the hundreds of millions of believers who express their faith with tolerance through a modern Islam open to the world. France expresses its respect. It does not confuse Islam, the religion with the second largest number of believers in our country, with the twisted and distorted picture given by the supporters of a kind of extremism.

However, we remain determined in our denunciation of religious intolerance and fanaticism, wherever it may come from, as well as in our struggle against terrorism, and I would like to assure you, Your Majesty, that our country will never become its rear base. [end recording]

This official visit is also an opportunity for France and the sherifian kingdom to get back on friendly terms again. The last official visit to Rabat by a French head of state dates back to 1983. Jacques Chirac highlighted the excellence of his relations with King Hassan II.

[Begin Chirac recording] Today, in the name of France, I would like to emphasize the exceptional nature of our relations with Morocco. During our conversations I understood that this is also your wish, Your Majesty. This visit — which we wanted to be intense and exemplary, and which, I would like to stress, I found very moving — this visit marks the intimacy which, through two heads of state, defines the relations between our peoples. [end recording]

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD2307211495 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi foreign minister, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, arrived in our country today carrying a message from the Iraqi president Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious.

The Iraqi official was greeted upon arrival at Rabat-Sale airport by Taieb Fassi Fihri, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, Nabil Ahmad al-Yasin, the Iraqi ambassador to Rabat, and a number of officials.

Sudan

Paper on Egyptian Bid To Implicate Sudan in Attack

EA2207155995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Press sources today announced the involvement of the ruling regime in Egypt in an attempt to involve Sudan in the recent assassinate attempt on the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian security forces in Addis Ababa have seized three parcels full of arms that were in the possession of the Egyptian team of investigators sent by Egypt to Ethiopia immediately after the assassination attempt.

AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper published in Khartoum this morning, quoting its sources in Addis Ababa, reports that the three parcels arrived at the Egyptian Embassy in Addis Ababa with: To the Embassy of Egypt in Ethiopia, written on the outside. They were seized and opened by the Ethiopian security forces. To the Embassy of Sudan in Addis Ababa, was written on the inside.

Individuals of the Egyptian investigation team attempted to smuggle the parcels, in car, from the Egyptian Embassy and put them in one of the two houses in which the group which implemented the assassination attempt resided, so that there would be conclusive evidence with which to blame Sudan. However, the Ethiopian security forces were able to seize the car and its contents.

The Egyptian regime attempted to recover the three parcels, fearing the exposure of its plot against Sudan. However, the Ethiopian authorities refused to return them.

It is worth pointing out that the Egyptian investigation team is led by an intelligence officer with the rank of major-general, and he is the same officer who supervised the organization and gathering of the scattered remnants of the so-called opposition in the recent conference in Asmara. He is the same person who recently implemented the operation of aggression against Sudanese diplomats in Cairo.

Moreover, security experts in western security organs have pointed out the likelihood of the involvement of the Egyptian intelligence [services] in the assassination attempt in order to achieve two aims, one of which was to create a pretext with which to target Sudan openly, isolate it in the Arab and international arenas and accuse it of sponsoring international terrorism—which the United States has failed to prove over the last two years. The second aim was to regain some popularity for the president of the Egyptian regime. His popularity has sharply declined as a result of the three years of civil war in Egypt.

Commentary Attacks Mubarak on Egypt's Anniversary

EA2207190895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Commentary by 'Abd-al-Azim Awad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 43rd anniversary of the 22 July 1952 revolution in Egypt takes place this year as Egypt continues to suffer from the fires of armed conflict. There is a tyrannical despot on one side and the oppressed people on the other. Their only fault—the people's that is, the noble people of Egypt—is that they want to breathe and to voice the truth before a despotic sultan. [passage omitted].

It is right for anyone to ask: what type of democracy is Mubarak talking about when he does not dare to walk in the streets of Cairo? He does not dare move, even when he is inside his armored car, for he fears for his life from his own people. To what extent can Mubarak continue to be arrogant and commit errors? Does he believe that taking an airplane from home to office will protect him from being punished according to the legal sentences, endorsed by the heroes, the sons of the Egyptian people, against him?

This will be in retaliation for hundreds if not thousands of lives which Mubarak has destroyed in Egypt, regardless of whether they are from the armed opposition or officers and men from the police force, who Mubarak throws into the furnace of an unlawful battle where one Muslim kills his brother Muslim unjustly. Forty-three years have now passed since the beginning of the Egyptian revolution.

The purpose of the revolution was to eliminate the feudal system, but today we hear about and see feudalism being practiced in its most atrocious form in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Forty-three years after the Egyptian revolution, which its founders meant as a lesson to the colonialists, the arrogant ones and the Zionists, here is Egypt today transforming itself into a big gate through which colonialism is passing into the whole region.

Here is the president of Egypt—who has become one of the most prominent agents and who has assumed the implementation of the policies of the neo-colonial order—allowing Israel to be as boisterous as it wishes in the region. God have mercy on the soul of the person who said: what is taken by force can only be recovered by force. [passage omitted]

The clear unquestionable truth is this: senility has befallen the Egyptian Government. Forty-three years after the July revolution those in power have changed. The free officers have been replaced by wicked officers such as Husni Mubarak. This is a matter which poses no options except change, radical change of the system of government in Egypt, in conforming with the winds of change and in accordance with the logic of history and the natural evolution of political and social movements.

This should lead to the civilizational revolution affecting most parts of the world today. A country like Egypt with its time-honored, civilizational and Islamic [word indistinct] must not lag behind this brilliant (?march), a march that will, God willing and with the will of the people, be a victorious one. This puts a great duty and responsibility on the shoulders of the Egyptian people.

We do not believe that the sons of Egypt, loyal to their country and people, can endure more than they have already endured from the autocrat's government [passage omitted]

Let us wait for tomorrow to see a new Egyptian revolution that will carry out corrections and developments, give guidance and return the land of Kinanah [Egypt] to its former status as a leader and guide. It is then that the wrongdoers will know their fate.

Official Denies Human Rights Violations Reports

EA2207193695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sons of Jibal al-Nubah have stressed their desire to secure the Internal Front and their backing for the National Salvation Revolution. This came in a statement issued by Mr. Qismallah Isma'il Musa [al-Mihrawi], reporter-general for the youth department in the supreme council for peace, and secretary of the southern Kordofan state youth league in Khartoum state.

The statement denied the existence of any human rights violations in the Jibal al-Nubah area. It said that what was being propagated by the western media on this subject was a mere fabrication to impair the unity of the Sudanese people. The statement highlighted the efforts being exerted by the government for stability and development in Jibal al-Nubah, particularly concerning the resettlement of returnees from the rebel movement.

Official Briefs UK Diplomat on Human Rights

EA2107123395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] and chairman of the TNA Human Rights Committee, Mr. Angelo Beda, met at his office today with Mr. (John Wilix), the deputy high commissioner in Khartoum. He briefed the diplomat fully on Sudan's extensive interest in fostering and protecting human rights. He said that there was full coordination between the TNA Human Rights Committee and the Higher Council of Human Rights, headed by the minister of justice and attorney general.

He said that the president of the Republic was giving his direct attention to the work of the committee and the council. He referred to the president's immediate responses to all the reports and recommendations submitted to him. He mentioned the president's decisions to release political detainees. He confirmed the state's interest at presidential, legislative, and executive levels to make prompt decisions on violations and complaints.

The deputy british high commissioner commended Sudan's interest in fostering and protecting human rights, stressing that the coordination between the legislature and the government, with evidence of the government's seriousness and strong interest in the citizens enjoying all human rights. This was a model worthy of admiration and appreciation.

Nubian Leader Denies 'Ethnic Cleansing' Charges

AB2207203695 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 22 (AFP) — The head of Sudan's Nubian tribes on Saturday [22 July] rejected as "baseless" reports by a rights group that Khartoum was conducting "ethnic cleansing" against Nubians.

Gissmalla Musa, head of the Nubian Tribes League in Khartoum, told state radio that a report on Nubians by the group African Rights was "baseless and aiming to defame the cultural orientation of the country."

It was "inconceivable that the sons of the Nuba mountains in west Sudan who are guarding the peace villages would commit rape and killing among their own people," Musa said.

"Those protecting these villages are from the Popular Defense Forces and are Nubian natives," said Musa, also an official in the Higher Council for Peace.

Khartoum has set up "peace villages" in the southern Kordufan province, the heart of Sudanese Nubia, to take in returnees from southern rebels and provide them with food and agricultural equipment.

Musa underlined that "the services being provided in these villages are not to be found even in other areas."

Africa Right's report, published in London Thursday, said the Sudanese Army destroyed villages to force the inhabitants into the "peace villages" where officials use humanitarian aid for political ends.

The report said soldiers rape women, arrest and kill men, women and children and commit summary executions in a campaign to Arabize the ethnically African Nubians.

Many Nubians, both Muslim and Christian, have joined the mostly Christian and animist southern rebels against the Muslim fundamentalist military regime in Khartoum.

Musa underlined that Nubians take part in "all levels of the government: we have a federal minister, the army is full of Nubians, the police, the deputy governor of Kordufan is from the Nuba tribe."

Five Hostages Released, Return to Khartoum

EA2107171495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authoritative Foreign Ministry source has said that the five hostages—three UN and two Sudanese Government employees—who were detained by the rebel movement have been released. They arrived in Khartoum this afternoon.

The source added that these hostages were in a UN plane sent to evacuate the Italian Doctor Guiseppe Meo from the Paryang area, which had been hijacked by the rebel movement to (Shabdub). It is known that the Sudanese Government released the Italian doctor on 18 July and handed him over to the Italian ambassador in Khartoum, after dropping all charges against him—among them his illegal entry into the country—in appreciation of the good relations binding Sudan and Italy.

Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Aghbash, commissioner general for relief, said in a statement to our reporter that the UN office in Khartoum took charge of the negotiations with the rebels to release the detained captives. They were received by the commissioner general for relief, the director of the World Food Program, and the director of the UN emergency unit.

Al-Bashir Denounces 'Zionism, Imperialism'

EA2307165595 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Jul 22 (SUNA) — President of the Republic Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has affirmed that Zionism and imperialism are attempting to undermine the stability in Sudan and to halt implementation of the Islamic project in the country.

In a speech he delivered following the Guma'a (Friday) prayer at Ansar al-Sunna Mosque at al-Thawra quarter in Omdurman town, al-Bashir said that Zionism and imperialism plan to return the Sudan to the pre-Islam era after they perceived the progress of Islam revival and the eminent role of Sudan in this revival.

Al-Bashir also tackled the current provocations launched by the Egyptian regime against Sudan asserting that the Egyptian regime became a tool for implementing the plots of Zionism and imperialism at the Arab and Islamic arena.

Al-Bashir described the programmes transmitted through the Egyptian TV channel as aimed at undermining the deeply-rooted social heritage at the Arab. [sentence as received] The Egyptian regime began to talk about the danger of the Sudanese external TV transmission fearing prospects of positive change in Egypt and taking into consideration that Sudan is now witnessing a period of civilization change al-Bashir said.

The president reviewed the history of Islam in Sudan the struggle of the Sudanese people for implementing the Islamic concepts and the role of khalaws (quranic schools) in disseminating Islam in Sudan.

Speaker Receives Message From Palestinian Counterpart

EA2307153495 Khartoum SUNA in English 1708 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 22 Jul (SUNA) — Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Mohamed al-Amin Khalifah has received written message from the Palestinian National Council (PNC) speaker Saleem al-Zanon in which he hailed the resolution of the TNA rejecting confiscation by the Israeli enemy of parts of al-Quds Town lands. The resolution rejecting confiscation of land is a historical stance that deserve praise of all Palestinians, al-Zanon said. The Palestinian official earlier received the TNA resolution on Israeli confiscation of Arab lands.

Tunisia

Official Statement Condemns 'Aggression' in Bosnia

LD2207214295 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Statement by Foreign Affairs Ministry on 22 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunisia—which is following with extreme anxiety the rapid and painful developments in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the treacherous aggression on its unarmed people without any deterrent and within an earshot of the entire population of the world, and the human tragedies which mankind had hardly experienced—strongly condemns the deliberate escalation of aggression by the Bosnian Serb forces and their defiance of international legitimacy and the United Nations by attacking the safe haven areas and their unarmed population.

Tunisia, which has worked at various regional and international levels in order to participate in finding a just solution according to international legitimacy for the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, once again appeals to the international community in its capacity as the representative of international conscience to shoulder its responsibilities seriously and resolutely in accordance with the UN resolutions and to put an end to the intransigence of the leadership and forces of the Bosnian Serbs and their insistence to go on with their premeditated policy based on eviction from homes, killing, annihilation, and ethnic cleansing.

The Security Council, which is entrusted with the establishment of peace and security in the world, is called upon to hasten in undertaking all necessary measures and use all means authorized by the UN Charter to impose an urgent halt to the advance of the Serbian forces and their withdrawal from the safe haven areas and from all the occupied territories. This is so that illegitimacy may not become the rule and respecting rights becomes the exception. The Security Council is also called upon to lift the embargo on arms for the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which can no longer be justified in any way, so that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina can legally defend themselves in accordance with Chapter 51 of the UN Charter, can put an end to the tragedy of the destitute and pursued Bosnian people, can guarantee their return to their villages and towns safe and protected against the Serbian machine of tyranny and injustice, and can protect the Bosnian state on account of its being a member of the United Nations and therefore having the right to enjoy the solidarity and support of the United Nations in order to halt the aggression it is enduring, liberate its territories from occupation and safeguard its independence and territorial integrity.

Tunisia, in these critical and painful circumstances, adds its voice to the voice of international conscience for the sake of a human awakening that restores to international principles and values their meanings, will continue to stand by the struggling people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to retrieve their lawful rights.

Qatar

Amir Receives Iraqi Minister, Saddam's Congratulations

JN2207124595 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, has received the congratulations of his brother His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, on his assumption of power in the country. His highness the amir, may God preserve him, also received wishes of success from his excellency the Iraqi president and the Iraqi Government and people who also wished bilateral relations more progress and promotion.

His Excellency Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi presidential envoy and foreign minister, conveyed the congratulations when his highness the amir received him at his office at 1000 today.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister; His Excellency 'Abdallah Bin- Khalifah al-'Atiyah, chief of the amir's office; and His Excellency Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Iraqi ambassador to Qatar.

The Qatari News Agency has learned that the two sides exchanged, during the meeting, views on the most important Gulf, Arab, and international issues.

Foreign Minister, al-Sahhaf Chair Talks

JN2207203695 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of official talks was held this morning between a Qatari team, led by Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr al Thani, and an Iraqi team, led by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

The two sides discussed ties between the two sisterly countries and the means to strengthen and improve them, as well as developments on the regional and international arenas.

The session was attended by Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, minister of state for foreign affairs; [name indistinct], acting head of the Arab Affairs Department; and Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq, Iraq's ambassador to Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Arrives in Jeddah for Visit

LD2207215295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived this evening in Jeddah on a visit to Saudi Arabia. He was received by Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari, minister of higher education, and brother 'Abdullah Diyari, of the Protocol Department, and the charge d'affaires and members of Libyan Bureau of Arab Brotherhood in Saudi Arabia.

Meets Crown Prince, Defense Minister

LD2307133995 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [as heard] and envoy of His Excellency Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in his office at the Royal Court in al-Salam Palace today. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received Major al-Humaydi and the delegation accompanying him at his office today. During the meeting bilateral relations and international issues of common interest were discussed. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Iraq's al-Sahhaf Meets Counterpart During Stopover

JN2107172495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 21 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when he made a stopover at Sanaa Airport on his way to Doha today.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf told INA correspondent in Sanaa that he exchanged views with his Yemeni counterpart Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani on some current Arab issues of joint interest.

He noted that he was in full agreement with his Yemeni counterpart on the need to secure the required elements to achieve Arab solidarity and to resolve problems in the interest of all sides.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf left Sanaa Airport for Doha after a stopover that lasted less than an hour.

Al-Sahhaf Discusses UN Ultimatum, Cairo Visit

JN2107185095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1640 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Faridah al-Shubashi; date not given; from "The Week's Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq, which suffers from an international embargo imposed on it five years ago this week addressed an ultimatum to the United Nations, giving the committee that is charged with disarming it until the end of August to complete its work. Otherwise, Iraq will suspend its cooperation with the international organization.

This ultimatum coincided with the arrival of the team of international experts in biological weapons to Baghdad and with Iraq's endeavor to obtain the Arab League's support for lifting the embargo.

This Iraqi endeavor was carried out by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf who met his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa within this framework for the first time since the Gulf war.

On the Iraqi ultimatum and Baghdad's endeavor to lift the embargo, colleague Faridah al-Shubashi interviewed the Iraqi foreign minister and asked him first about Iraq's stand when the ultimatum addressed to the United Nations expires.

[Begin recording] [al-Sahhaf] The only issue that requires a solution is the biological file. Scientific assessments say that this file needs such a period of time, meaning if we work together and in complete cooperation, that is the Special Commission and Iraq, it is very possible to complete the issue. The Special Commission would get the sufficient and full replies that will satisfy it by the end of next August. That's why, this deadline means that work is to continue without intentional delays, and that the game of looking for a black crow should stop. That's why, by the end of August, sufficient time would have passed for them to ascertain the truth about the biological program. If it proves they are playing the game of looking for a white crow, meaning procrastination, delaying, and the search for something that does not exist, we will, and we have the right to feel that there is no use in pursuing cooperation and dealing with the Special Commission, because it will deliberately show that it does not want to inform the UN Security Council that it had ended its work. Thus. the Council would be ready to discuss the implementation of Paragraph 22 for lifting the unjust embargo that has been imposed on Iraq for more than five years.

This is our stand. If they do not inform the UN Security Council within this reasonable period of time, this means they want to waste time to maintain the embargo on Iraq. Then, no one can blame us. This means that there is no respect for the UN Security Council resolutions, and that the Special Commission. For one reason or the other, does not want to inform the UN Security Council that it has completed its work, but wants to waste time.

[Shubashi] Your Excellency, Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus has said that Iraq has no other choice but to continue cooperating with the United Nations. What is your comment on Ekeus' statements?

[Al-Sahhaf] This is irresponsible talk. We cooperate with the United Nations. However, this cooperation should be clear and specific as to what is the mission that requires such a cooperation. We cooperated and completed work. There is just the old story of the biological program. This issue has a deadline. Ekeus and others should respect their obligations and Iraq's rights. Otherwise, it will be useless to continue cooperation with them.

[Shubashi] Your Excellency, what are the objectives of your visit to Cairo , and is it restricted to seeking the Arab League's support for lifting the embargo on Iraq, or are there other steps Baghdad seeks to attain?

[Al-Sahhaf] My visit to Cairo takes place to meet with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. I met with him and submitted to him a detailed explanation with documents, facts, and figures which clearly show that Iraq has fulfilled the obligations stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions. I asked the Arab League secretary general to support Iraq and its just demand to have the UN Security Council, after we complete the biological file, to issue a resolution lifting the embargo on Iraq. My visit is within this framework. I also met with my colleague, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa for the same purpose. I also explained all these details to his excellency.

[Shubashi] Your Excellency, you said you sensed understanding for Iraq by 'Amr Musa. How will this be translated?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is an obvious understanding because the review of the facts on Iraq's implementation of the obligations stipulated in Resolution 687 clearly shows that the implementation was sincere, complete, and in a detailed manner no one can deny. The stand of the brothers in Egypt is that if Iraq fulfills the obligations it should implement in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, then this is all that it should do and that there should be no additions or other conditions. This is the basis of the sympathy for the Iraqi stand.

[Shubashi] Your Excellency, what about the cabinet reshuffle which affected the Iraqi Defense Ministry and under which the new Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad was appointed?

[Al-Sahhaf] These are changes which take place as in any other country. Governments and ministers change. There is nothing unusual behind these changes.

Sources Cited on Musa-al-Sahhaf Meeting

JN2107190495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1650 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Muna Salim in Cairo; from "The Week's Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although it seems like indication of the possibility of ending Arab estrangement with Iraq, Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's visit to Cairo this week has not practically led to any essential change or tangible results.

Al-Sahhaf asked Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid for an Arab support for Iraq's demand of lifting the oil embargo in mid-September. However, he did not obtain any specific promises, especially since the Arab League's stand depends on the member states' stands.

Thus far, the declared sympathy with the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blanket blockade which has been imposed on them for five years, has not materialized into any form of political support. In fact, the issue of blockade on Iraq is not basically listed on the agenda of the Arab League meetings. This issue is continuously and categorically rejected by the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait.

The Iraqi minister's meeting with his counterpart 'Amr Musa last Wednesday [19 July], which was shrouded with secrecy, has not also led to a change in the declared Egyptian stand; namely, that Iraq should fulfill all its obligations toward the United Nations, even though the Egyptian officials understand that Iraq has actually complied with many of the UN Security Council's conditions.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo told our radio that lifting the oil embargo imposed on Iraq still basically hinges on the development of the U.S. position on the Iraqi issue.

INA: U.S. Delegation Says Embargo 'May Be Eased'

JN2207201495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The special correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency [INA] in al-Sulyamaniyah said clashes broke out yesterday between the cliques of Jalal Talabani and Barzani near the village of (Aynazah) in Sayyid Sadiq sector in al-Sulyamaniyah Governorate, in which mortar and medium weapons were used and a number of people from both sides were killed or injured.

The situation continues to be tense in Rawandoz, in Irbil Governorate. Jalal Talabani asked the so-called international humanitarian organizations to extend food assistance to hundreds of Rawandoz citizens who were displaced from the city by the violent artillery shelling last week, which destroyed scores of houses there.

Meanwhile, U.S. and British delegations arrived in Irbil in a bid to employ pressure on Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani to stop their clashes.

INA correspondent in Irbil learned that the two delegations have stated at a special meeting that there are signs that the siege on Iraq may be eased, and that the U.S. and British Governments are determined to find a solution for the problem of Barzani and Talabani, but they did not reveal the nature of this solution.

Press Views UN Resolutions, Economic Embargo

Patience 'Has Completely Run Out'

JN2207145995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has said that the resolutions the UN Security Council passed against Iraq are considered as an unjust war imposed on Iraq and that there is nothing in the UN Charter that could justify passing such resolutions.

In an article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin entitled "Patience Has Completely Run out," the paper adds: Despite all this, Iraq has persisted in removing the pretexts, one after another, and committed itself to the full implementation of these resolutions.

BABIL continues: Instead of appeasing the enemies, this Iraqi commitment has teased them. The enemies wish Iraq would not implement these resolutions, so they can use this fact as a pretext to perpetuate the blockade and even to launch a new aggression on Iraq.

The paper says: If Iraq completely fulfills its commitments, the blockade will continue and its repercussions will increase the people's pains.

BABIL asserts that the Iraqi leadership has enjoyed wisdom in all its dealings. However, this leadership finds it equally wise to fulfill its commitments toward the Iraqi people before those toward the Security Council. The paper says: We cannot, and do not, agree to await the completion of the Zionist scheme as was worked out by its designers and by those who implemented it. Moreover, we cannot wait until the interests and policies are changed. We cannot, and do not, agree that our people continue to suffer. This is because patience has completely run out.

The paper recalls that the Iraqi people do not play with words away from an objective. Likewise, the Iraqi people's language of politics, exactly like in other fields, is a fine language because it is frank and it describes the situation as it is, and it also defines the position as it should be.

BABIL also recalls President Saddam Husayn's speeches to the 11th Iraq Command conference and on the 27th July revolution anniversary. It says: These speeches used the language of the conscience — the conscience of the people, the Arab nation, and mankind whenever they pursue justice and adhere to the truth and fight for it.

Showdown With West Warned

JN2307171095 Baghdad INA in English
0900 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 23, INA — In its today article the BAGHDAD OBSERVER said, since the imposition of the economic sanctions in 1990 by the UN, Iraq has cooperated with the so-called UN inspection teams despite questioning of the impartiality of these teams.

The UN Special Commission has exceeded its designated technical missions to indulge itself in purely political issues simply to meet US schemings against Iraq.

The US has been resorting to delaying tactics every time the UN Special Commission expressed its satisfaction and appreciation of Iraq's cooperation.

But since the US is using the economic embargo to achieve political ends, it has always exerted covert and overt pressures over members of the UN Security Council to disuse these countries from taking a positive attitude towards Iraq, the paper added.

Nevertheless, Iraq has fulfilled all that has been demanded by the UN Security Council resolutions though they are unprecedented, unjust, merciless and designed with a premeditated intention to cause utmost harm to Iraqis and Iraq's legitimate interests.

The imperialist villains have destroyed Iraq's infrastructure during an atrocious war and followed it with the destruction of so many equipment and factories Iraqis could have been using for civilian purposes to bring about progress and prosperity to the people of Iraq.

Over the last five years, the UN inspection teams under the influence of the US have been shifting steps and demands from one topic to another just to win more time for their political game designed to weaken Iraq while Iraq implements what they demand in the hope that its people are relieved of the tragedies and tribulations caused by the unjust embargo.

Since Iraqis have lost many things that had been achieved with great toil and enormous sacrifices, since they have got nothing to lose if they were to stop their cooperation with the UN Special Commission, they (Iraqis) should be prepared and be ready to any possible showdown with the despots who are responsible for all their suffering and their agony.

As President Saddam Husayn put, it is hightime all the steps Iraq has taken be reciprocated by the UN Security Council to meet its obligation it defined by its own resolutions.

Iraq cannot afford any more to go on implementing US inspired demands of the UN Special Commission without having this process linked to a foreseeable end to the embargo.

All honest and fair-minded people of the world, from among members of the Security Council and others, concede Iraq's right to having the embargo lifted.

Those of the anti-Iraq camp should realize that they are only causing great harm to Iraqis from all walks of life, namely, the children, the sick, the elderly and the have-nots who are forced to live under poverty due to the imposition of the unjust embargo.

Legitimate Demand To End Embargo Stressed

JN2407094995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0700 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that attempts to distort Iraq's position and relations with the [UN] Special Commission, and the false clamor fabricated by the western media to twist facts and shuffle cards to serve the evil objectives of the Zionist quarters, will not stop us from pursuing our legitimate and just demand to lift the embargo and end the Iraqi people's suffering.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Iraq has a legitimate and legal right to demand that the UN Security Council reciprocate all the steps which Iraq has taken in exchange for the Security Council's fulfillment of its commitments and implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, by lifting the unfair embargo imposed on it.

The paper urges the Special Commission to present its special report after closing the biological weapons file and to recognize a basic fact which will deal a blow to all enemies and abort their failed wagers. That fact confirms that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments in full and implemented what is required by Resolution 687 to implement Paragraph 22.

The paper stresses that increasingly other countries are fairly showing an understanding for, and sympathizing with Iraq's position and are blaming the United States, which was behind the embargo decision, for the continuation of that embargo despite the collapse of its pretexts and the growing number of parties that oppose its hegemony over international decisions.

The paper concludes by saying: The Iraqis' struggle [jihad], persistence, and adherence to their free will, leadership, and principles throughout the past five years and despite all their suffering and sacrifices have brought about such a change in the international position and have prevented Iraq's enemies from achieving their evil aggressive goals.

RCC Issues 'Comprehensive Pardon' for Prisoners

JN2207114295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1040 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Following a meeting chaired by President Saddam Husayn, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a comprehensive pardon for Iraqi prisoners and detainees held in jail. The RCC also commuted death sentences to life imprisonment and pardoned deserters and those who failed to join military service.

The RCC pardon includes those jailed for premeditated murder if they have served three years of a sentence exceeding 10 years, if they have served two years of a sentence not exceeding 10 years, and if they have been held in custody for more than one year.

The RCC relieved the Iraqi detainees of their sentences if their relatives pledge to guarantee their good conduct and if this pledge is supported by a member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The RCC relieved those sentenced to hand amputation if they have served two years in detention or custody.

The pardon also included the prisoners and detainees, regardless of their sentences, who learn by heart four long Koran suras and understand the policy of the revolution.

The RCC commuted to life imprisonment death sentences passed and ratified before the pardon was issued.

The RCC totally halted the procedures taken against anyone who committed the crime of desertion or absence from military service or anyone who failed to join military service if he surrendered himself in repentance or if he was arrested before the pardon went into effect. The halt to these procedures also includes deserters, those absent from military service, or those who failed to join it who surrender themselves within two weeks after the pardon goes into effect with regard to those inside Iraq and within one month with regard to those outside Iraq.

The RCC relieved those sentenced to amputation of their outer ear.

The RCC decided to reinstate the sentences of a prisoner or detainee if he deliberately commits a crime or offense similar to that of which he was relieved.

The pardon excludes prisoners, detainees, and those sentenced for drug dealing, spying, murder accompanied by robbery, embezzlement of state funds, attacking employees or those entrusted with carrying out a public service while on duty or as a result of their duty, as as well as those sentenced for bribery, rape, sodomy, and incest.

Saddam Reportedly Shuts Down al-Habbaniyah Air Base

JN2107162995 Al-Riyad AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic
16 Jul 95 pp 1, 25

[Report by Karim 'Abdallah in Salah al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Informed Iraqi military sources report that Saddam Husayn has ordered the Iraqi Air Force command to close down the al-Habbaniyah air base and to turn its military airport into a civilian airport as a precautionary measure to remove combat aircraft from Baghdad.

The sources add that the Air Force command moved all war planes and helicopters to the Tikrit air base and transferred several pilots to civilian and administrative positions not within their fields of specialization and pensioned many others.

Saddam Husayn's decision to close down the al-Habbaniyah air base, one of the most important Iraqi military abases, comes in the wake of the failed coup led by Staff Brigadier General Turki Isma'il al-Dulaymi whose plan was to release the pilots imprisoned in

Abu- Ghrayb prison near the abase, then take control of the base, and use the aircraft there to pound the places where Saddam Husayn and the other members of his gang might be found. [passage omitted]

Opposition on 'Udayy-Information Ministry Dispute

JN2207162495 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources close to the Ministry of Culture and Information in the regime of the tyrant say that differences have increased recently between the ministry and the so-called cultural grouping which is led by the idiot 'Udayy, the tyrant's son. The sources say that these differences are caused by the tyrant's recent orders to nominate a number of military personnel to supervise important departments in Saddam's media apparatus.

Earlier, our sources noted that many employees of the regime's media departments had been waiting for the replacement of the current officials with military personnel who had been working in the Defense Ministry's Political Guidance Department or with those who are close to the Olympic committee which is supervised by the idiot 'Udayy.

SAIRI Chief: Relations With Iran 'Still Good'

JN2307153695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, secretary general of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], arrived in the Syrian capital two days ago to hold talks with the Iraqi opposition parties and Syrian officials. Asked by our radio correspondent in Damascus Thana' al-Imam about the reports on his possible move from Tehran to Damascus, al-Hakim denied this and reaffirmed the continuation of good relations between him and the Iranian authorities despite the continuous dialogue between Tehran and Baghdad:

[Begin recording] [al-Hakim] These reports, which were disseminated by some foreign newspapers and radios — in addition to some analyses and predictions in this regard — are baseless. We have neither planned nor thought about such a thing.

[Al-Imam] Are you saying that relations with Iran are still good?

[Al-Hakim] Our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are still good and our presence there will continue. A large number of Iraqis live there and our activities have continued on the same level. [end recording]

Ministry Official Reacts to Iranian Statements

JN2307202195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sa'd al-Faysal, senior under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Ministry, has reacted to statements by several Iranian officials published in the Iranian news media on 22 July 1995. In these statements, Iranian officials promoted allegations and falsehoods on the implementation of the provisions enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 598, and on the party responsible for starting the aggression.

Commenting on these statements, al-Faysal said:

First, the evidence Iraq has submitted to the United Nations has indisputably confirmed that it was Iran which started and stepped up its hostile military operations, harassments, provocations, and border violations as of July 1980, not to mention the infiltrations and sabotage carried out on Iraqi territory. Moreover, Iran carried out a flagrant aggression on the Iraqi border cities by shelling them with heavy artillery on 4 September 1980. It used warplanes in the attack against Iraq. This prompted Iraq to retaliate on 22 September, exercising its legitimate right to self-defense.

Second, Iraq accepted all relevant UN Security Council resolutions since the passage of Resolution 479 of 28 September 1980, the first resolution passed regarding the conflict. In contrast, Iran rejected this resolution and all successive resolutions, including Resolution 598. Iran was compelled to accept this resolution only one year after its passage after it had suffered a sweeping military defeat in the war, which it insisted on continuing. This is corroborated by the fact that Khomeyni made a statement then, saying that Iran's acceptance of that resolution was like taking poison.

Third, Iraq has always been eager to implement Resolution 598, and viewed it as a blanket blueprint for peace that could bring about a just and lasting settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. It launched several initiatives to achieve this objective. Neverthless, Iran has not thus far responded favorably to these initiatives. In their statements, Iranian officials have claimed that they have honored the provisions enshrined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Resolution 598, which concern the cease-fire and withdrawal to the international borders. As a matter of fact, Iran violated these provisions later. In the aftermath of the 30-state aggression, it treacherously intervened militarily against Iraq by pushing armed elements across the borders to destroy Iraqi cities, installations, and basic infrastructure, and kill innocent Iraqi civilians.

Iran continued its violations of the provisions regarding the buffer zone signed between the two countries on

6 January 1990 through thousands of daily Iranian violations of the cease-fire resolution that were brought to the attention of the UN secretary general in official memoranda. As of 31 May 1995, these violations have totaled 1,095.

Iranian officials have claimed that there are Iranian POW's held in Iraq. From time to time, they provide different and conflicting figures on them. As a matter of fact, as of 17 August 1990 and in implementation of the initiative launched by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, on 14 August 1990, Iraq had begun the process of freeing and repatriating all Iranian POW's to create the objective and appropriate climate for a comprehensive settlement. However, and despite this humanitarian Iraqi initiative, Iran has not honored the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 3 of the aforesaid resolution, which concerns the POW's. It has not released all Iraqi POW's. It has responded to the Iraqi initiative on the basis of one POW in exchange for one POW. It has continued to hold thousands of Iraqi POW's.

A memorandum of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] addressed to Iraq and Iran dated 19 September 1994 has confirmed how respectful Iraq is of the provisions enshrined in the Third Geneva Convention of 1994 regarding the treatment of POW's and how cooperative it is with the ICRC in this regard. In contrast, this memorandum has shown the flagrant Iranian violations of the provisions enshrined in this convention, and how Iran has failed to cooperate with the ICRC to implement the moves agreed with Iraq and Iran to free our POW's within the context of the joint tripartite technical committee.

Fifth, Iranian officials have adamantly clung to a statement made by former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the circumstances of starting the aggression. According to Resolution 598, Javier Perez de Cuellar is not authorized to express his personal views in this regard. His statement, which is treasured by the Iranian officials, is worthless. Everybody is well aware that it was a cheap bribe given to them in exchange for releasing the U.S. hostages held captive in Lebanon then.

The senior under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added: These Iranian statements are part of a string of statements that Iranian officials have recently begun to make on Iraqi-Iranian ties to mislead the Iranian public about the true position of the Iranian Government toward Iraq. Moreover, these statements reveal the Iranian rulers' real intention to obscure facts. If it is serious about the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace, Iran must honor its legal and ethical commitments by repatriating all our POW's, halting the talk on conditions that contravene international ethics and norms, and returning the Iraqi property sequestered in Iran. Moreover, its conduct must show a firm and constant respect for good neighborly ties.

Iranian Remarks on Ties With U.S. Criticized

JN2307104095 Baghdad INA in English
0830 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jul 23, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily has confirmed that senior Iranian officials are trying between whiles to release statements believing that they might get them closer to the United States, the West and some Arab Gulf rulers.

In its article on Sunday, AL-THAWRAH said that these Iranian statements broached Iraq without justification and tried to hint that it is threatening security in the region.

The paper made it clear that these statements by senior officials in Tehran are inconsistent with their declared desire for normalizing relations with Iraq and ironing out the pending dossiers, in addition to that these statements could not change character of the Iranian regime which is a logical outcome of its policy in the region since 1979 so far.

The paper stressed that the rulers of Iran should behave in a wise manner especially in their relations with Iraq because events of the past years have substantiated that any policy inconsistent with the spirit of wisdom and reason as useless and give nothing in dealing with Iraq.

It further said that the rulers of Iran should be aware that the world as a whole well perceives that Iraq is the most important country in the region and its rational policy at all levels heralds influential role in bringing about stability and security to the region.

Minister Meets Officials in Amman, Visits Moscow

JN2407102795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
24 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi minister [of Industry and Minerals], who visited Amman two weeks ago was on his way to Moscow on an urgent mission. He spent one night in Moscow before returning to Baghdad.

During his stay in Amman, the Iraqi minister, accompanied by the Iraqi ambassador, paid courtesy visits to three former prime ministers: Zayd al-Rifa'i, Mudar Badran, and 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. He did not visit [former prime ministers] Ahmad 'Ubaydat and Tahir al-Masri.

Patriotic Front Adopts Saddam Speech as 'Working Paper'

JN2207171395 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The Progressive National and Patriotic Front has held a meeting chaired by Secretary General of the front 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur.

Participants in the meeting have adopted President Saddam Husayn latest speech on the anniversary of the July 17 revolution as a working paper and a new track for the front in its next stage within the frame of its relations with the political parties at both Arab and international levels.

'Abd-al-Ghafur called upon Arab national fronts as well as political parties worldwide to further their efforts in pressing the security council to lift the anti-Iraq embargo and to shape up a legal and morale position away from procrastination and deception, in exchange for Iraq's fulfillment of all the UN relevant resolutions.

The front agreed to keep on implementing its plan by deepening its relations with other political forces and parties for gaining further support to Iraq fair demand of putting Para 22 of the Security Council Resolution 687 into practice which entails the lifting of the oil embargo as an entry to the complete lifting of the anti-Iraq sanctions.

'Terrorist Attack' Reported on Ramat Gan Bus

'Suicide Bomber' Suspected

TA2407064295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz has just told IDF Radio that five or six people were killed in the terrorist attack on the bus in Ramat Gan this morning. Apparently, the terrorist who carried the explosive charge was among those killed. The police believe he was a suicide bomber. As far as is currently known, approximately 20 people were injured by the explosion, some of them seriously. The commissioner noted that the explosion was weaker than the one that occurred on the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv.

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA2407081095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0730 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven people, including the suicide bomber, were apparently killed in the terrorist attack on the Dan bus. Twenty-five of the wounded have been hospitalized for treatment at Ikhilov Hospital, and seven of them are currently undergoing surgery. Five people who sustained slight to moderate injuries were evacuated to Beilinson Hospital.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has assumed responsibility for the attack. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that an anonymous caller phoned the offices of Qol Yisra'el in Arabic and said that Hamas is assuming responsibility for the terrorist attack. Before hanging up, the caller added that Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer, planned today's suicide bombing.

Yahya 'Ayyash Claims Responsibility

JN2407091295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An unidentified man has phoned the News Room of Qol Yisra'el in Arabic twice claiming that the cells of terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash were responsible for the bus bombing.

Fatah Vanguards Claim Responsibility

JN2407085795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0829 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Struggling Brethren: An anonymous caller has contacted al-Quds Radio, the Palestinian Arab radio along the path of liberating land and man, a short while ago. He claimed to belong to the Fatah Vanguards, al-'Asifah Forces [tala'i' fatah, quwat al-'asifah]. He added that the Fatah Vanguards, in cooperation with allies from the steadfast Palestinian forces, are the ones who carried out the Ramat Gan operation, and that the Fatah Vanguards, al-'Asifah Forces, will later issue a detailed statement on the incident.

The anonymous caller, who contacted al-Quds radio, added that Fatah of the honorable ones, who reject humiliation and capitulation and who adhere to armed struggle, will not give in to agreements that rob our Palestinian people of their right to their land and their country throughout Palestine. Moreover, they will not allow the Arab nation and its living forces to be weakened by the treason committed by 'Arafat and his group.

Rabin Tours Explosion Site; Curfew Imposed

TA2407093895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured the site of this morning's terrorist attack in Ramat Gan and then left for the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv to hold consultations with security officials. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister will issue a statement at the meeting of the Labor party's Knesset faction in approximately two hours. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has imposed a curfew on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and soldiers are preventing Palestinian residents from entering Israel. Security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that large numbers of Palestinians working in Israel are returning to their homes in the territories, fearing retaliation in the wake of this morning's attack.

At the site of the terrorist explosion in Ramat Gan, preparations are being made to tow away the wreckage of the bus. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that the security forces have initial findings with regard to the type of explosives and the modus operandi used in the blast. An investigation is underway with regard to the identity of the perpetrators.

Thirty-two people wounded in the explosion have been hospitalized in Tel Aviv's Ikhilov and Petah Tiqva's Beilinson Hospitals. Twenty-eight of the wounded are hospitalized in Ikhilov: three of them in critical condition, five in serious condition, with the others described as suffering from light to moderate wounds. Fifteen of the wounded are undergoing surgery. Most of them suffer from arm and leg injuries. Five people with light to moderate wounds are hospitalized at Beilinson Hospital, including the bus driver who sustained light injuries. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel, also condemned the perpetrators of today's terrorist attack. He called on the movements opposed to the peace process to reconsider their path. Darwish said that the peace negotiations between the parties should now be expedited.

The leaders of the Israeli opposition parties have decided to present their no-confidence motions in the government as planned. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the heads of the right- wing factions have decided to demand that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin halt the talks with the Palestinians and reevaluate the continuation of the peace process. The opposition factions are also insisting that the prime minister respond personally to the no-confidence motions.

Rabin Halts Talks for 'Several Hours'

TA2407081495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has announced that the talks with the Palestinians at the Dead Sea will be halted for several hours following this morning's terrorist attack. The negotiations will be resumed today. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that at a meeting with the Argentine foreign minister, Rabin said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad are trying to reduce the Israeli public's support for the peace process by carrying out terrorist attacks.

Beilin: Talks Must Continue

TA2407075995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Interview with Economic Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by anchor Hayim Yavin; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] We would like your reaction to the bus attack, sir.

[Beilin] This is a sad morning. My heart cries along with the families of the dead and prays for the speedy recovery of the wounded. It makes one feel like punching someone in the face, but such a punch could backfire on us. I would like to find the address, but this is not simple, because we do not yet know what it is. We have prevented such incidents over the past several months and fortunately there have been no such terror attacks recently, but it is impossible to prevent them totally. As usual, even in such terrible moments, we must be strong and know that we must stay on the path we have taken. The people who do such things — perhaps in the name of God but with no God in their hearts — want us to deviate from our path.

[Yavin] Does this not again play into the hands of those who claim that Yasir 'Arafat does not want or is incapable of putting an end to such things?

[Beilin] Look, if the perpetrators indeed came from the West Bank, then 'Arafat has no say there, perhaps just the opposite. The question is: Where will this take us? If we stop the talks — as I expect the right-wing spokesmen will demand shortly — we would be doing an excellent service to those mad elements who want us to stop them. I am not suggesting the opposite either: that we speed up the talks because of this incident. We must stay on our path and tell ourselves that these islands of insanity are constantly shrinking in view of the developments, as I hope and believe. We will never surrender to them.

[Yavin] Dr. Beilin, will this have an impact on the talks?

[Beilin] It must not. It is not simple, because psychologically you cannot go on with the same optimistic mood when such a thing happens. You know that, regrettably, such things do happen. The Oklahoma blast happened for no reason, and there are terror attacks on Japanese subways. I assume that even when peace comes, there will always be enough madmen who, in the name of this or that God, will attempt to do things like this. I hope we will be strong enough to maintain our sanity and stay on our path. I assume that these people are signaling that they do not want us here, neither in peace, in war, in settlements, nor in negotiations.

[Yavin] You speak of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but it could have been done by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

[Beilin] I am speaking of all of those who are willing to use such means today: the rejectionist fronts, Hamas, or the Islamic Jihad. I believe they may be the elements who perpetrate such things, as they have done in the past. If we deviate from our path — slow down, speed up, or suspend the process because of such incidents — we would be doing exactly what they want.

[Yavin] You know, we can always call them madmen, but if we do not put an end to this, the peace process will lose credibility.

[Beilin] Look, the peace process aspires to put the past behind us. More than 18,000 young men were killed in Israel's wars. I believe that if this process is completed the way we want, it will put an end to the strategic threat to the State of Israel. If, however, you ask me whether we can put an end to killings in this world or in Israel when peace comes, I tell you with deep regret: No.

President Views Attack, Negotiations

TA2407080795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0742 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is the first reaction by Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman to this morning's terrorist attack. Weizman spoke with our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller:

[Begin Weizman recording] The officials in charge of the negotiations will have to very carefully consider their future steps, as well as what should be done, because these attacks, in which there was a hiatus, fortunately, although there was an attack in Wadi al-Qilt and there is an ongoing war in Lebanon with occasional casualties....[pauses] As a powerful country which is firmly entrenched in this area, we must consider how to handle the negotiations. We cannot just let this pass without reaction. Things cannot continue this way. [end recording]

Jordanian Envoy, Others Denounce Act

JN2407092495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The bloody bombing in Ramat Gan has caused a stormy wave of condemnation in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority [PA], denounced the criminal attack, saying it is a terrorist act intended to sabotage negotiations and the peace process.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of planning and international cooperation of the PA, said this criminal act was intended to kill innocent people and to undermine the peace process. Dr. Sha'th told our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid that if it is established that the planner of the operation originated from the self-rule areas, the PA will take necessary measures. [passage omitted]

Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordan's ambassador to Israel, said his country regrets this incident, which, he said, obstructs the peace process. The Jordanian ambassador said he is convinced that all arties concerned will continue their efforts to achieve peace. [passage omitted]

Peres Warns Palestinians Against Stalling Talks

TA2107183095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has presented the Palestinians with an ultimatum. He said in an interview with Channel 2 that if the negotiations on the interim arrangement are not concluded by the end of July, the signing will be postponed for a long time. Israeli sources charge that the Palestinians are deliberately stalling the negotiations. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen explains:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] U.S. Ambassador Indyk came for a briefing at Uri Savir's room at the Hilton, but even after the talk, he could not tell his superiors to get the Washington podiums ready for a ceremony.

[Savir] We are in the final stage at the moment, when the negotiations are seen as a critical battle for one's assets.

[Rosen] A week into the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks Savir cannot announce any definitive results. The Israeli delegation feels the Palestinians are deliberately stalling, because they have apparently set a new date for the elections — December instead of October — which will permit them to drag the negotiations out some more.

Shim'on Peres almost spoke in terms of an ultimatum:

[Peres] The question I am unable to answer, although the answer would seem to be obvious, is how much the Palestinians are really interested in signing. America and Europe are two 11-month continents: August does not exist for them. If we do not sign by the end of this month, it will be postponed for a long time. They can wait, if that is what they want, but I think it will be a mistake on their part.

[Rosen] Vital problems have not been solved, including Hebron, where the Palestinians want to reduce the military presence to the minimum and have their police enter the city.

[Peres] There are creative ideas on this issue, too. I guess some ideas are being kept for the end, and will probably be raised on the last day, or the day before the last.

[Rosen] Do the creative ideas include an Israeli willingness to reduce the military volume in Hebron, to confine its presence to certain areas?

[Peres] I am not prepared to answer that.

[Rosen] The talks will resume in Israel next week. The sides will decide on Sunday [23 July] whether they will continue here in Zikhron Ya'aqov or at some other hotel. In any event, 25 July is about to become another missed target date. [end recording]

Cabinet on 25 Jul Deadline, Hebron Split, Golan

TA2307164895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Report by David Ze'ev — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Ze'ev] Since this is 23 July, only two days remain until the target date set by both sides, both sides now admit that for all the effort they are making, they will not meet the deadline. The issue was discussed at this morning's cabinet meeting, and the ministers' assessments suggest that an agreement will be reached, but not on time. If you needed confirmation, cabinet Minister Yosi Sarid gave it: The 25 July target date with the Palestinians will not be met. It is out of the question, Sarid said. We still have many problems and it will take time.

Widespread support was evident among the ministers to divide the city of Hebron. In the context of the negotiations with the Palestinians, a special committee has been looking into the unique status of Hebron — the only city where Jews live alongside the Palestinian population. From the left-wing perspective of Minister Sarid, leaving the Israeli army in part of Hebron is the best possible way out of a bad situation.

[Sarid] It should be a part of the redeployment. Since there is a very special situation in this particular city, the redeployment will carry its own character but, as far as I am concerned, it should be a part of the redeployment.

[Ze'ev] But even from the more right-wing perspective of Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit, splitting up Hebron is the best solution.

[Shetrit] Any arrangement that would separate the powers and the authorities of the Israeli army and the Palestinian Authority that will not mingle the powers together, including in Hebron, I think are good ideas.

[Ze'ev] An idea which will mean that Israel would withdraw from the six other Palestinian cities in the West Bank and redeploy in Hebron before the Palestinian elections.

Minister Shetrit also said that he supports the Golan bill, which makes territorial concessions on the heights contingent upon more than a simple majority in a Knesset vote or a referendum. The bill is to be brought before the Knesset this Wednesday [26 July] by three Labor Knesset Members [MK] Avigdor Qahalani, 'Imanu'el Zismann, and Ya'aqov Shefi. The three will be permitted to vote in favor of the bill, but the Labor caucus is prohibiting all other Labor MK's from doing so. After today's cabinet meeting, Minister Shetrit of Labor said he would like to vote in favor of the bill, but that his party is forcing him to do otherwise.

[Shetrit] In principle, I think that making concessions in regard of territory has to be based on a wider consensus of the general community and, therefore, in principle, I think there should be some kind of sounding out of this wider consensus. However, my own party has voted against the principle of special majority in the parliament or special majority in a referendum, but I personally think, in principle and as a constitutional professor, that such very major, very historic, very complicated [decision] with wide ranging ramifications to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel, has to be based on wider consensus and not on numerical narrow majority. [end recording]

Government Agrees to PA Police Along Green Line

TA2307114495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is planning to allow the Palestinian Authority to post its civilian "blue police in every one of the 460 Arab villages in the territories, including those just outside the Jerusalem municipal boundary and along the Green Line, two senior Israel sources told THE JERUSALEM POST over the weekend. [punctuation as received]

"We will allow the Palestinians to put blue police in all the 460 villages," a senior Israeli official said. "The blue police will ensure that Palestinians in these villages will provide law enforcement for the administrative autonomy granted for these villages. They will deal only with such issues as burglaries and the like."

Such a move would completely contravene Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's promise to the Labor Party faction just a couple of weeks ago that Israel will not allow blue police to be posted in the Jerusalem area, along the Green Line or in the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said that the redeployment negotiations will move today from Zikhron Ya'aqov to the Dead Sea region's Lot Hotel. Rabin held consultations at his home last night with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other senior officials on the status of the talks.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 July in a report by Yerah Tal, Ori Nir, and 'Amira Hass on pages A1, A10 writes that "before the decision was made to move the talks to the Dead Sea, the Palestinians demanded holding negotiations in Cairo but Israel objected. Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that Israel's refusal to move the talks to Cairo stems among other things from Egypt's hostile attitude toward Israel over Cairo's demand that Israel sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"The Israeli sources added that Jerusalem preferred that the talks take place in Israel since they had not yet reached the stage which would require their relocating to Egypt in order to enable the Egyptians to play the role of mediator. One of the reasons for the Palestinians' demand to move the talks from Zikhron Ya'aqov were the right-wing demonstrations which made the Palestinian negotiators feel besieged."]

Aides to Rabin said the Tuesday target date for wrapping up the negotiations apparently will not be met.

While aides to 'Arafat reportedly said that a summit between the PLO leader and Rabin has already been scheduled to resolve final issues, an aide to Rabin said last night, "A summit between the two comes just at the end, but we are not there yet."

Ahmad Quray', the chief Palestinian negotiator in the second stage talks, was quoted in AL-QUDS yesterday as saying that he doubted an agreement could be reached by July 25, largely because of the impasse on water.

Israel and the Palestinians have already agreed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will retain overriding security authority — in order to foil terrorism — for all Arab villages at least until mid-1997.

The Jerusalem area, Green Line and Jordan Valley are zones that Rabin has made clear he wants Israel to claim in negotiations for the final disposition of territories, scheduled to begin next May and conclude by May 1999.

But observers believe that once Palestinian civilian police are posted all over the territories it will be harder for Israel to carve out settlement blocs as part of a territorial compromise.

Last night, an official in the Prime Minister's Office refused to confirm or deny the story.

The two senior sources also confirmed that Israel will trade Palestinian willingness to defer the sensitive issue of water rights in the territories to final status talks and for a specific amount of Israeli-drawn water in the territories. It is unclear whether the Palestinians and Israelis have agreed upon an amount that Israel would transfer.

At the same time, Israel wants the means to verify that Palestinians are not doing extra drilling in the Qalqilyah and Tulkarm area where the Yarqon-Taninim aquifer is located, nor in the Janin area, where the Gilbo'a aquifer is located.

Just earlier last week, Peres said that the Palestinians will gain new levels of water, but denied that it will come at Israel's expense. It is estimated that Israel draws 490 million cubic meters of water from aquifers in the territories while the Palestinians draw no more than 110 million cubic meters.

It remains unclear how much water Israel will provide the Palestinians and also where it will obtain water to make up for the shortfall. It is believed that desalinating water would cost about NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2.25 per cubic meter, while water from aquifers costs about 18 agorot per cubic meter.

There were also reports over the weekend that the Palestinians were insisting on compensation for the water deal that Israel struck with Jordan as part of the peace treaty between the two countries last year.

Another sticking point in the negotiations is registry of public lands in rural areas. Israel has insisted that the whole issue of these lands be deferred to final status talks, saying this constitutes part of the essence of such negotiations down the road.

But the Palestinians want to take over the registry now, making some Israelis wonder whether their plan is to build Palestinian housing all along the Green Line, thereby further complicating the possibility of territorial compromise later.

Meanwhile, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) the overall chief Palestinian negotiator who has kept his distance from the talks because of differences with 'Arafat over the Gaza-Jericho agreement, is to go to Ramallah today to take up residence and open a new office, Palestinian sources said.

'Abbas left Tunis for Gaza 10 days ago and has been in close touch with 'Arafat. By settling in Ramallah — where support for 'Arafat is low but 'Abbas has support — he could build an internal power base and show how he can help increase support for the Palestinian Authority.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew in a report by Hemi Shalev on page 2 notes that "on the eve of the second week of talks with the Palestinians on the interim accord, political sources in Jerusalem yesterday asserted that 'Israel will be prepared to evacuate various suburbs of Hebron while leaving behind sufficient forces to protect the town's Jewish settlement, areas securing control of it, and the town's main road.' On the other hand, the sources said that with regard to security responsibility in the rural areas and the transfer of water rights, Israel 'had reached the limit of its concessions.' The sources said that if the Palestinians continued on insisting on joint security responsibility for the traffic axes or on discussing water rights now, the talks would run into a crisis and there would be no agreement."]

Palestinians Accused of 'Negative Approach'

TA2307053795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are shifting to a different location, the Lot Hotel along the Dead Sea. Only two days remain until the July 25th target date. Israel says the Palestinians must change their attitude if they want the negotiations concluded. Prime Minister Yitzhaq

Rabin held consultations last night with senior officials, including Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and chief negotiator Uri Savir. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Foreign Minister Peres says it is up to the Palestinians if they want to sign an agreement. An Israeli official went one step further last night, accusing the Palestinians of showing a negative approach in the negotiations. Asked about Palestinian comments in the media of no progress, the official said last night it reflects their approach to the talks. The official said if the Palestinians would make decisions which would allow the discussions to move ahead, it would not take long to wrap up agreements. Under the current circumstances, the official said, reaching an interim agreement by the latest target date of July 25th, just two days away, will not happen.

The two major issues often cited have been water and security. On water, though Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said Thursday [20 July] that the Palestinians had agreed to put off discussion on their water rights in principle, differences appear to remain on how much in practice the Palestinians will receive. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 23 July, in a report by Arab affairs correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, adds that Palestinian Minister of Finance Muhammad al-Nashashibi is claiming that "the Palestinians have rights over underground waters on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip stemming from the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers, and even the waters of the Yarqon River."]

On security, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last week the Palestinians would have their own police force in the villages of the West Bank. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Labor party caucus a number of weeks ago that Israel would not agree to include the villages on the road to Jerusalem along the Green Line 1967 border and in the Jordan Valley, but over the past two weeks, Rabin and Peres have referred to all of the villages without any distinction in their appearances before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Still, the Israeli official said last night that there is no agreement on the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from the cities north and south of Jerusalem: Bethlehem and Ramallah. On Hebron, a military division of the city is being considered, though there is certainly no word of agreement on that issue. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 23 July carries a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz which adds: "Political circles said last night that a compromise might be possible on Hebron: The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] can change its deployment in the city areas in which Jews do not enter."]

So now, attention shifts to negotiations along the Dead Sea, with the risk of yet another target going by the wayside. [end recording]

Argentine-Syrian Nukes Deal Halted; Peres on Rural Pullout

TA2307171995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Argentina says it will not go ahead with the deal to sell a small nuclear reactor to Syria if Israel objects. The project has run into fierce criticism until the Argentinian foreign minister arrived in Jerusalem today to spell out his country's position. Before going into talks with Israel's Shim'on Peres, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella told Miri Sherf of our foreign desk of the policy his government intends adopting:

[Begin recording] [Di Tella] We will not do anything that will compromise, in the eyes of the main actors, the peace process and the peace in this part of the world. And I am specifying that not only we have to judge that it is not interfering with the process or with the security, but that both Israel and Syria believe the same. If you think it puts in jeopardy your security, the project is out. The same we would react if Syria would say for an equivalent deed. [sentence as heard] We have not signed anything; we have not committed ourselves to anything. So I am very surprised that the Israeli press speaks about negotiations going on. We know what the Syrians want and, of what they want, the obvious choice is in the area of medical use of radio isotopes, where our people are very good. And this thing has absolutely no connection — although this I am going to ask because some people might think it has indirect connection — this thing has neither direct or indirect connection. [end recording]

While that tape was broadcasting, our diplomatic correspondent David Ze'ev just came into the studio. David, you just got an update from the meeting between the two foreign ministers.

[Ze'ev] Yes. Israel and Argentina have agreed that nuclear agreements between the Argentinians and the Syrians will be put off until after Israel and Syria have reached a peace treaty and, even at that point, the issue would be subject to coordination with Israel. The announcement was made after the meeting a short while ago at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Argentinian Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella. The two men held a joint news conference after the meeting, and now we are going to go on to a bit of a different subject here, and we will get back to Argentina-Israel relations in just a moment.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed that Israel will withdraw from all Palestinian villages in the West Bank without exception, as part of the agreement now being worked out with the Palestinians:

[Begin recording] [Peres] On the villages, yes, we shall redeploy our army, but Israel will keep the overriding responsibility for security because the traffic on the roads is a mixed traffic and we think that if there will be any occurrences, we would like to handle it ourselves and guarantee the security of the Israelis as well as the Palestinians.

[Ze'ev] But there will not be any exceptions concerning the villages?

[Peres] No, we do not intend to keep in any village an Israeli military presence. There will be an overall military responsibility, but we shall redeploy our army from the villages, and the same goes for the cities but for Hebron, which is a special case and we are looking for a solution. Also in Hebron, we are intending to enable them to go for elections.

[Ze'ev] On Argentinian relations, one more question, sir: One year after the Jewish community center bombing in Buenos Aires, do you believe the Argentinians are doing enough to fight terrorism and to find those responsible.

[Peres] Let me answer you very openly: I personally am convinced that President Menem is a real and good friend of Israel. I do not have the slightest reason to doubt his friendship and sincerity. The same goes for the administration and I think you just heard the most warm expression of friendship coming from the foreign minister of Argentina. That is the overriding consideration. So, I believe they are trying to do very much — as much as they can — to bring an end of terror because, if I am not wrong, the feeling in Argentina is that the terrorists tried to compromise not only Jewish life but also the Argentinian Government. And I think the Argentinian Government as well as us are deeply interested to bring an end to the story and get a hold of the people who are responsible for this terrible act.

[Di Tella] Regarding the question about suspects: Today, seven Lebanese suspects have been extradited from Paraguay to Argentina. They are arriving either tonight or tomorrow morning. This gives new hopes to the investigation. I do not want to make too much out of that because we have had leads that went nowhere, many leads in the past. But, we are quite confident that something will come out of this new group of leads that these people represent. [end recording]

King Receives Bosnian Prime Minister's Call, Appeal

JN2307203895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening received a telephone call from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzic, who informed his majesty that the Bihac and Zepa enclaves were currently exposed to a large-scale offensive and fierce shelling by Serb forces.

The Bosnian prime minister appealed to his majesty to undertake efforts to stop the offensive against the Islamic enclaves, which were declared safe havens by the United Nations.

His majesty immediately held contacts with the ambassadors of the Security Council permanent member states accredited in Amman. He reiterated Jordan's clear position and its denunciation of the Serb aggression. He stressed the need to preserve the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to achieve security for its fraternal people in compliance with the international legitimacy and in defense of human rights.

His majesty also stressed the need to confront that aggression and back the Bosnian people in their just struggle.

King Husayn Criticizes Russia's Stand on Bosnia

JN2307083395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn on Saturday [22 July] stressed Jordan's total rejection of ethnic conflicts everywhere and called for a firm stand by the international community on the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an interview with the Cable News Network (CNN), His Majesty said he and the Jordanian people would not save an effort in offering everything possible to resolve the Bosnian crisis.

He said the situation in the former Yugoslav republic is unprecedented in the history of the world.

"We are seing something that the world has never witnessed before—ethnic cleansing, religious intolerance; all these are things that are utterly repulsive to use and we deeply moved."

Describing the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a reminder of the Holocaust, he said Jordan was extremely worried over what is happening in the republic and that the whole Jordanian people have expressed their true feelings on the situation by their attempts to raise funds to help the victims of the war.

The King said he felt solutions offered to resolve the crisis seem to be at the expense of the victimised side and voiced his belief that such settlements might be the cause of influence by some U.N. Security Council members, especially Russia.

"With all due respect, I think that there is a lot of appeasement to, unfortunately, the aggressor at the expense of the victim and possibly this is connected with the situation in between some of the permanent members of the Security Council, in particular, Russia's view seems to have a certain effect on what happens of does not happen there."

The King added that there was an attempt on the part of Russia to "equating the victim an the aggressor.. this cannot happen; something must happen to show that the world cares, that is capable of making a stand."

His Majesty said Jordan will respect the arms embargo imposed by the U.N. on the warring parties in the republic and called for a firm stand to be taken by the international community.

He said Jordan is concerned about the safety its peacekeeping troops deployed in former Yugoslavia, but nevertheless the Kingdom was also concerned about the situation facing the U.N. and the international community.

"We are worried about our soldiers obviously, but we are worried that the challenge that the U.N. and the international community are facing... is a humiliation to everyone, to all that we represent everywhere."

Telethon To Raise Money for Bosnians; Rabin Calls

JN2107200695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 21 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A humanitarian initiative launched by Jordan today to assist the Bosnian civilians drew generous contributions, which, at this hour, reached over 1.7 million dinars [JD] [approximately $2.45 million]. A fund-raising show telethon was organized by Jordan Television in cooperation with the Hashemite Charity Society. The show was also carried on Jordan Satellite Channel drawing donations from Jordanian expatriates and from Arab citizens.

Minutes after the launch of the telethon in the early afternoon, his majesty the king was the first to call in, announcing a donation of JD50,000. The king said the Bosnian people are facing extremely difficult conditions, and the current campaign against them violates human rights. His majesty reaffirmed that Jordan will do the utmost to help the Bosnians through the tragic situation they have been subjected to. The king said Jordan would be ready to contribute more peacekeeping troops, should the international community move to out an end to the current massacres in Bosnia. His majesty said he himself would be willing to join the UN peacekeepers. But if things remained as they are, the king added, Jordan would not keep its troops in former Yugoslavia. And in another call, the king later donated two desalination plants to Bosnia.

Throughout the afternoon the fund-raising program received more donations, including offers to adopt Bosnian children. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan joined the telethon and announced a donation of JD25,000. [passage omitted]

From the embattled capital of Sarajevo, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzic called in to express his appreciation of Jordan's support. He said the situation in Bosnia is very tragic. Siladzic said the UN-designated safe areas are under heavy attacks from Serb forces. And Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called in from Tel Aviv to announce a 3,000 dollar donation to the Bosnian people.

[Begin Rabin recording] I tell you His Majesty King Husayn spoke to me about a week ago about the tragedy in Bosnia. I, as an Israeli and a prime minister of Israel, join with him in denouncing and condemning any kind of these atrocities that are carried by the Serbs against the Bosnian people. We all oppose any kind of genocide based on racial attack on people because they believe in their religion, whether be Muslims, Christians, or Jews. What happens in Bosnia needs to be tackled by the whole world. His majesty offered that we will join together in a real assistance to the people of Bosnia, the Muslims of Bosnia. I responded very positively. I said to his majesty that Israel condemns any kind of these atrocities and we speak loud about it. Second, Israel will send assistance to the Bosnian people in their plight. [end recording]

Jordanian citizens made their way to the TV station with their donations and feelings of support to the Bosnian people. The TV fund-raising program hosted high ranking officials and public figures from all sectors of life. At some time in the evening, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir walked in with the donation of JD10,000. He announced through the show that the government had decided to contribute JD20,000 towards the relief of the Bosnians. Prime Minister hailed the courage of the Bosnian people and regretted the lack of action by the big powers to halt the massacres in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti on Alexandria Summit, Riyadh, Iraq

JN2207122895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Jul 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Omani talks began at the Guest Palace yesterday under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Jordanian foreign minister, and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. In an arrival statement yesterday, the Omani minister praised the signs of detente in relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, reaffirming that this detente will largely improve Arab-Arab relations.

In another development, a Jordanian-Egyptian summit is expected to convene in Alexandria on Thursday [27 July] between His Majesty King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to complete the discussion of the issues of common interest which were the topics of an in-depth discussion during the last summit.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ASWAQ, Foreign Minister al-Kabariti said that the two leaders will discuss, during the Jordanian-Egyptian summit, the latest developments in the peace talks, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Al-Kabariti added that both sides will reiterate the need for implementing the second phase of the self-rule accord. Al-Kabariti said that his majesty the king will congratulate President Mubarak on his escape from the assassination attempt.

Al-Kabariti disclosed that his next visit to Saudi Arabia will open the doors wide open for the return of normal relations between the two countries. Al-Kabariti denied that Saudi Arabia has set any conditions for restoring its relations with Jordan.

The foreign minister noted that, during his visit to Saudi Arabia, he found that the views of the Jordanian and Saudi officials were identical vis-a-vis the need for building bilateral relations on clear and strong grounds so that the higher strategic and national interests will mainly define future relations between the two countries.

Asked if Jordan will embark on a mediation mission to resolve the dispute between Egypt and Sudan, al-Kabariti said that Jordan's stand vis-a-vis this is clear. This stand, he added, is based on the fact that all differences must be settled through bilateral dialogue and within the framework of the Arab fold. Al-Kabariti said: Therefore, we call for not escalating the situation between the two countries to the point of no return, which will complicate the problem and prevent any cordial solution to it.

Asked if there was any change in the Jordanian stand regarding the suffering of the Iraqi people, al-Kabariti said: Also, our stand on this matter is very clear, and the Jordanian Government has announced it on many occasions. The foreign minister stressed that what is being practiced against the Iraqi people is a violation of human rights and that this suffering must end within the framework of international legitimacy.

Al-Kabariti noted that proceeding from its humanitarian stand, Jordan calls for finding suitable solutions to all outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait. He said that the Jordanian Government calls for cooperation with the United Nations in what is related to monitoring the Iraqi armament program.

Al-Kabariti said he hoped the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees — which in Jordan's view is one of the important and basis issues — will be settled. He added: We hope that we will enter a new stage in the near future, through which Iraq will restore its positive role in its Arab environment. Al-Kabariti disclosed that next week he will visit a number of Arab countries, including the State of Qatar.

Ministers Discuss Issues With PA's al-Husayni

JN2307112695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] minister in charge of the Jerusalem file, at the Prime Ministry this morning. The audience was attended by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

The two sides reviewed what was achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The prime minister voiced Jordan's full support for these intensive efforts. He expressed hope that an agreement will be reached as soon as possible so that the two parties can proceed toward the final status talks.

Al-Husayni commended Jordan's support for the Arab right. On relations between the two fraternal peoples, the prime minister said he hopes all Jordanian-Palestinian agreements will crystallize into tangible facts on the ground further consolidating relations between the two peoples. He stressed the need for conducting a periodic review of these agreements so as to close all gaps that may surface through practice.

His excellency underscored the special status of Jerusalem for Jordan and the latter's support for all efforts to make it a city of future peace and to make Arab Jerusalem the capital of Palestine.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti also received Faysal al-Husayni this morning. The two sides reviewed the progress of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations currently underway. Al-Kabariti reviewed Jordanian efforts aiming to accomplish an Israeli-Palestinian agreement in full coordination with the PNA. He also reviewed the Jordanian role in protecting the holy places in Jerusalem and the Jordanian Government's latest measures to boost the security and protection of the holy places and upgrade the performance of Islamic courts in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni Reviews Talks

JN2307184995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has stressed Jordan's firm stand on the Jerusalem issue, as well as the need for Jerusalem to become the capital of Palestine. This came in a statement by his excellency when he received Faysal al-Husayni, minister of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and official in charge of the Jerusalem file. Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti attended the meeting. More details from our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] During the meeting, Faysal al-Husayni reviewed what has been achieved so far on the Palestinian-Israeli track. His Excellency Zayd Bin-Shakir stressed Jordan's full support for these intensive efforts, expressing hope that an agreement would be reached so that both sides can move to the final status negotiations. His excellency the prime minister also stressed the special status of Jerusalem for Jordan, as well our support for all efforts to maintain Jerusalem as a city of peace and to make Arab Jerusalem the capital of Palestine.

Al-Husayni praised Jordan's support for the Arab rights and thanked the Jordanian Government for preserving the sanctities and for the efficiency of the Islamic courts, which are fully carrying out their duties in holy Jerusalem. Regarding his meeting with his excellency the prime minister, al-Husayni said:

[Al-Husayni] We reviewed our domestic situation, the peace process, and the issue of Jerusalem and Israeli measures in it. We also discussed the prospects for meeting the needs of Jerusalem, particularly al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Dhiyab] Mr. al-Husayni, there are several proposals on Jerusalem. We have the Palestinian proposals, the Arab proposals, and the vague Israeli proposals. As official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the PNA, what in your view is the true situation?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that we at this stage need several proposals and discussions, which should also reach the Israeli street. What is needed now is to foil Israel's taboos regarding the city of Jerusalem. This is what is happening now, although tackling this issue had been almost impossible in Israel's view. However, the Israelis are now ready to talk about it.

[Dhiyab] Is there any coordination between you and Jordan over the Jerusalem issue?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, I believe there is an official and very clear stand that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and that it will be the future Palestinian capital.

[Dhiyab] Is this the official Jordanian stand?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, each of the official Jordanian stand, the official Palestinian stand, and even the official Israeli stand contains some points that should be resolved. Here, each party can present certain concepts of a solution. All stands, however, are based on that principle.

[Dhiyab] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti today met with Faysal al-Husayni, PNA minister and official in charge of the Jerusalem file. They reviewed Jordanian efforts to achieve a Palestinian-Israeli accord in full coordination with the PNA. They also reviewed Jordan's role in protecting the holy shrines in Jerusalem, as well as the Jordanian Government's measures to enhance the security of the sanctities and improve the performance of the Islamic courts in Jerusalem. The meeting was attended by Ziyad al-Majali, head of the Jordanian Representation Office in Gaza, and 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman. [end recording]

U.S. Senate Endorses Draft Bill To Cancel Debts

JN2207103095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 18

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — PETRA — Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has told reporters that the U.S. Senate endorsed a draft bill which allows for writing off all of Jordan's $488 million debts and that funds have been allocated for this purpose.

The bill will be referred to U.S. President Clinton for signature in order to complete its constitutional stages. Al-Kabariti hoped that this would be done early next week. The U.S. Senate yesterday endorsed a draft bill to reduce expenditure which includes writing off Jordan's debts. The U.S. Senate's approval paves the way for passing the draft bill. It will be referred to President Bill Clinton for ratification. The draft bill entails a $16 billion reduction in expenditure. The Democrats obstructed this draft bill for two weeks because they wanted to restore funds that were allocated to help the poor to meet home heating costs and for vocational training programs and education. The U.S. House of Representatives endorsed this amended draft bill last month. This ended the tug-of-war between the U.S. Congress and Clinton, who objected to a previous draft bill that entailed further reduction in expenditures than what would be approved by the President.

Minister Hails Write-Off

JN2207190895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Interview with Finance Minister Basil Jardanah by television economic correspondent Amjad Abidah in Amman—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abidah] After months of hesitation, the U.S. Administration was able to wrest from the Congress an agreement to write off all of the debts that Jordan owes the United States. Finance Minister Basil Jardanah is our guest tonight and he will shed light on this issue. Good evening Mr. Jardanah.

[Jardanah] Thank you.

[Abidah] Can you comment on this decision?

[Jardanah] Undoubtedly this is happy news. As you have said, after a long time and hesitation, the U.S. Administration has reached an agreement with the Congress to write off $488 million of Jordan's debts. Had it not been for efforts by his majesty, his highness the crown prince, and the government that lasted several months, we would not have been able to realize this. This decision is important because it gives us a basis for urging the other states with loans to Jordan to pay the dues of peace, as the United States has done.

[Abidah] How will this decision affect the Jordanian economy especially in the investments field?

[Jardanah] One of the problems in the Jordanian economy is that the foreign debt of Jordan is high. However, we must say that these debts have dropped satisfactorily over the past three years. By the end of 1989, the amount of debt exceeded $8 billion. Now it stands at $6 billion without considering the U.S. cancellation decision, which will reduce it to $5.5 billion. Thus, there has been a noticeable drop in debts. As a result of this, service to the foreign debts will also drop. This will improve the investment prospects in Jordan and will increase Jordan's solvency abroad. When foreign investors find that our debts are high they will doubt Jordan's capability to service its debts. This measure will help reduce the debts and improve the solvency of Jordan and the economic climate. This is important. We are going to hold a Jordanian economic conference and this will help us convince foreign investors that Jordan's position is sound, that it is suitable for investing.

[Abidah] How will this affect the state budget?

[Jardanah] It will have a good effect on the state budget. Indeed despite the fact that these debts have been rescheduled and do not constitute a burden to the treasury from the liquidity viewpoint, we will continue to list in our budget the necessary amounts to service the debts. This is part of the state's commitments. This will enable us to reduce the interests that we earmark in the budget by a reasonable amount estimated at present at 20 million dinars. This amount can be used to finance investments and other necessary needs to maintain the level of the services that the government offers the citizens, especially the low income group.

[Abidah] Thank you, sir.

[Jardanah] Thank you.

Al-Kabariti Receives Russian Deputy Minister

JN2207172295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received in his office this morning [Deputy Foreign Minister] Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy, who is currently vising Jordan.

Our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti reports about what went on during the meeting:

[Begin recording] [al-Qaryuti] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Viktor Posuvalyuk reviewed recent developments in regional and international arenas and efforts exerted to lift the suffering of the Iraqi people within the framework of international legitimacy. Al-Kabariti conveyed to the Russian envoy Jordan's discomfort with the ambiguity surrounding the Russian stand toward the issue of Bosnia and the Serb attacks against these peaceful people. He stressed that there should be a clear and frank stand in support of resolutions of international legitimacy and justice. This is because the stand of the United Nations — represented by the UN Security Council, big powers, and the liaison group — has a great bearing on the Arab, Islamic, and world public opinion and on the credibility of slogans raised by these countries and the international organization toward respect for human rights, freedom, and the right to self-determination.

After the meeting, Russian envoy Posuvalyuk spoke about the issues he discussed with al-Kabariti.

[Posuvalyuk] The issues are divided into three parts. The first part has to do with bilateral relations. We expressed our satisfaction with the development of these relations. We spoke about some practical issues. The second issue is the peace process and part of the discussion was devoted to the Amman forum, the conference which will be held in Amman in late October.

I briefed his excellency the minister on the meeting held in Moscow two days ago, which was an international conference among various parties to discuss establishing a bank for Middle East development. We talked about the next step in the process of establishing this bank. We are happy to say that the Moscow meeting yielded some results to overcome differences in viewpoints in this regard.

The third issue is the Iraqi issue. I have given the minister my impressions of the talks I held in Baghdad, and I assured him that Russia adopts the following position: We ask and advise Iraq to implement all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly the military-related provisions of Resolution 687. In this regard, we also discussed the biological weapons. We, in Russia, have responded positively to the positive steps that Iraq has recently taken, including its implementation of many provisions of the said resolution, Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, and other steps. We respond to these steps in order to encourage Iraq to implement all resolutions and provisions. It seems that Jordan's position is close to Russia's views on this issue.

The foreign minister expressed the concern of the Jordanian Government over this issue and briefed us on the considerations of Jordan regarding the positions of the big powers and the permanent member states of the Security Council. I promised him that I would immediately convey these considerations to the Russian Government in Moscow. [end recording]

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Arrives

JN2107193195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to the kingdom, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and will hold talks with the foreign minister on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. Following is a report from our correspondent for political affairs Kassab Samawi:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] The visit to Jordan by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, is part of coordination and consultation between the two leaderships and fraternal countries on various bilateral, Arab, and international issues. The Omani minister, who arrived in Amman this afternoon, was received at Amman Airport by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, senior ministry officials, and the Omani charge d'affaires in Jordan.

Al-Kabariti, and Yusuf Bin-'Alawi held a round of talks at the Guest Palace this evening. They reviewed the brotherly, distinguished relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in order to serve the joint interests of both fraternal countries, as well as the higher interests of the Arab nations. They also reviewed the latest developments both in the Arab and international arenas, as well as coordination and efforts to stop Serb aggressions against Bosnian Muslims.

[Bin-'Alawi] I am pleased whenever I visit the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, this genuine Arab country, and meet my brother officials. I will seize this opportunity to meet brother Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim for talks on bilateral or multilateral relations between the two countries. Undoubtedly, current developments in the Arab arena are of interest to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman require further contacts and consultations. My visit to my brother 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is part of this.

[Samawi] Your Excellency, your visit to Amman this time comes after several signs of the improvement of Arab relations, the latest of which is a detente in Jordanian-Saudi relations. How does Oman view current events and their effect on future inter-Arab relations?

[Bin-'Alawi] God be praised, anyhow. This is a day of joy for us to see an improvement of inter-Arab relations, particularly between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, because these two countries have an important role to play in the overall Arab issues and inter-Arab relations. We are very happy, and we praise this detente and this trend, whose results will, undoubtedly, be in favor of the two countries and the Arab nation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Kabariti, Greek Counterpart Sign Agreement

JN2307153095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A round of official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry today between the Jordanian side headed by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and the Greek side headed by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

In a statement to journalists after the talks, Papoulias said that discussions were held in a atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect. He said: We discussed relations between our two friendly countries and ways to bolster them by holding meetings of the joint Jordanian-Greek committee for economic cooperation.

He said that the two sides held identical views on several international issues, including Greece's participation in the Amman economic summit in October, lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq, the current Bosnian situation, and developments in the Middle East peace process.

The Greek foreign minister highly valued Jordan's role under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn in building peace in the Middle East.

At the end of the round of talks, al-Kabariti and Papoulias signed a cooperation agreement between their two foreign ministries, under which the two countries will hold dialogue on various bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Fadlallah Criticizes West's Stance on Bosnia

NC2307194595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Islamic leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Eminence, the international stance on the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina has raised several questions. What, in your opinion, are the reasons and repercussions of this position on the strategic level?

[Fadlallah] I believe that there is a cultural prejudice against Islam within Western circles in general and European circles in particular. Therefore, we believe that there is a plan to weaken the Islamic force in Europe, because Europe does not want to see an Islamic state in the heart of Europe, because Europe fears the dynamism of Islam, which has begun to make an impression on the European scene. If the Muslims establish a state in the heart of Europe, it would be possible for Islam to use this state as a staging point.

I believe that the European cultural fear of Islam and the Muslims is being disguised with time-wasting ploys designed to enable the Serbs impose a fait accompli on the Muslims so that a future solution will be based on Muslim concessions of land and rights. This is what we see in the Russian foreign minister's recent remarks that it is important to reconsider the distribution of land in Bosnia among the Serbs, Croatians, and Muslims. This would allow the Serbs to keep the largest area.

The United States is using double standards by insinuating that it supports the Muslims. But in fact, the United States is not giving any help in this direction for one simple reason: The United States has no interests in Bosnia that would prompt it to send troops or make any moves that would affect its relations with its European allies or its Russian ally. The U.S. uses double standards in its foreign policy.

At a time when we see the Western and eastern camps combining in one way or another to weaken the Muslims in Bosnia and treating the cause of the Muslims as a humanitarian issue, we see that the so-called Islamic countries are not doing anything to pressure the international community. The Muslims have started to talk about sending humanitarian relief when in fact the Bosnians are in need of military aid.

[Correspondent] Thank you Your Eminence, Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah for this important comprehensive interview. Thank you very much.

[Fadlallah] God bless you.

Labor Unions Decide To Continue General Strike

NC2107192195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The executive council of the General Labor Federation met today under Ilyas Abu-Rizq and decided to confirm its former decisions, especially the one on carrying out an open-ended general strike and on staging demonstrations until its demands are met. But it announced that it will wait to hear the Chamber of Deputies' stand on the issues. The Chamber will meet next week.

In the meantime, the council will remain in open session and will make a final decision on Thursday [27 July].

While asserting its policy of holding dialogues and discussing the various issues, the General Labor Federation stressed that there can be no dialogue while there is a threat of arrests and before the policy of imposing tariffs and taxes is rescinded, particularly the decision to increase the price of fuel.

The council said it had discussed raising the issue of those who have been arrested at the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels and making it the priority issue, because the fate of the dialogue with the authorities and the future of political and cultural life in our homeland depend on it.

Army, Syrians Storm Areas in al-Biqa'

NC2207165795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-three people were arrested today in the towns of Hawr Ta'la and Brital in al-Biqa' within the framework of a storming campaign carried out by a force from the Lebanese Army consisting of a shock group, the 2d Intervention Regiment, a unit of the 3d Brigade, and a unit from the Airborne Regiment, as well as the Internal Security forces and the Syrian Arab Forces; the force was under the command of Lebanese Army Major General Ilyas Farhat.

This campaign took place because of family clashes in the area that arose due to earlier differences. The storming force transported the detainees to Ablah barracks for interrogation. Weapons and banned goods were seized. A military source reports that armed men from the towns of Hawr Ta'la and Brital fled in the direction of the barren areas.

The director general of the internal security forces, Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, who inspected the joint forces and their deployment locations, stated that the objective of the operation is to impose security and the rule of law in this region, just as in the rest of

Lebanon. Maj. Gen. al-Hasan added that this operation will continue to search for wanted persons and drugs traffickers until security is established in all areas.

Buwayz Holds Talks with Greek Foreign Minister

NC2207143195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Official Lebanese-Greek talks began at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry at 1100 today. The Lebanese side was headed by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and included a Lebanese diplomatic delegation led by Foreign Ministry Director General Zafir al-Hasan. The Greek side was headed by Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and attended by a Greek diplomatic delegation consisting of the director general of the Greek Foreign Ministry and the head of the ministry's Middle East Department. [passage omitted]

Radio Reports Ramat Gan 'Suicidal Operation'

JN2407100595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0920 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight persons were killed and another 32 were wounded in a bus explosion in the city of Ramat Gan this morning. Eyewitnesses said the Israeli occupation forces sealed off the area near the crowded Tel Aviv bourse area and many ambulances rushed to the scene of the incident.

AFP said Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] claimed responsibility for the operation. It added that an anonymous caller contacted Israeli radio to announce the movement's responsibility for the explosion. He said Palestinian citizen Yahya 'Ayyash from the movement carried out this operation with 20 kg of explosives. [sentence as heard]

In the wake of the explosion, the Israeli occupation forces today prevented about 2 million [as heard] Palestinians from entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An Israeli military official told REUTER that the Israeli authorities will seal off the West Bank, but did not say for how long.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the limited Palestinian self-rule authority condemned the suicidal operation and termed it terrorist. He said in Gaza: I strongly condemn this terrorist activity. He described the operation as an attempt to sabotage talks with Israel

Mashariqah Discusses Peace, Arab Solidarity

NC2307090695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 23 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah has condemned the sinful attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa last month. He described it as a lowly conspiracy that targeted not only Mubarak personally, but Egypt as a whole.

The Syrian vice president told a MENA correspondent in Damascus that Egyptian-Syrian relations are based on fraternal ties between brothers linked by a long struggle and mutual interests. He referred to the strong ties linking presidents Mubarak and al-Asad.

Replying to a question on the latest developments in the peace process negotiations, Dr. Mashariqah said Syria has a clear position on security and the arrangements needed for it. He emphasized that there must be security arrangements on both sides of the 4 June 1967 line and that they should be mutual, equal, and parallel.

The Syrian vice president pointed out that there is no need for early-warning centers, adding that satellite photography eliminates the need for these centers. He explained that this photography covers the entire area and provides the necessary information for the parties concerned.

Dr. Mashariqah stated that Syria does not accept the continued presence of occupation soldiers on Syrian territory under any pretext, as this represents continuing occupation and an infringement on sovereignty. The excuses Israel gives for maintaining early-warning centers and a checkpoint are weak, he said.

He accused Israel of failing to accept the land-for-peace principle. Also, he said Israel was discussing security guarantees that would maintain its occupation under different names, like checkpoint or early-warning.

Dr. Mashariqah said peace is Syria's strategic choice. He added that Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which will lead to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines in Golan, south Lebanon, and all the Arab lands occupied in the June 1967 aggression. He noted that his country has repeatedly stated that it will not give up an inch of its territory and that it seeks the restoration of its full, unabridged sovereignty on the Golan.

Asked about the U.S. role in the peace process, he said: Continuing the negotiations is important to the United States because it is a peace sponsor. However, what counts is not the negotiations themselves, the negotiations must reach their goal. Their goal is achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region through Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories.

The Syrian vice president pointed out that the American role would be more effective if it made Israel, the country that obstructs the course of peace, be more serious, respond to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace, and respect international resolutions; this would avoid wasting more time and effort.

Dr. Mashariqah highlighted the importance of the European role in the peace process, noting that Europe can play an important role because it is close to the theater of operation. Arab and European states share the Mediterranean and historical relations between Europe and the Arab region affect political, economic, and cultural relations, he said.

He added that Europe enjoys a prominent economic status in our Arab region and throughout the world. He said: It is natural that Europe plays a political role proportional to its economic status; it should play an effective role in the peace process, in achieving a just and lasting peace in the region, and in helping Arab states achieve the desired economic development.

Responding to a question on Arab solidarity, the Syrian vice president mentioned the importance of uniting Arab positions and restoring the spirit of joint action.

Mashariqah expressed his country's hope that the Arab nation will heal the discord, overcome the exceptional experience, and restore solidarity to preserve the pan-Arab interest.

Ba'th Party Official Reiterates Peace Position

JN2307180395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met with students of Hasan Bin-al-Haytham camp for university training in Hims this morning. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar spoke to the students and conveyed to them the greetings and love of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the republic. [passage omitted]

He then spoke about developments in the Arab and international arenas, and developments of the peace process in our region. He emphasized Syria's principled position toward this process which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. He said Syria is eager to render this process successful to realize its objectives in order to establish just and comprehensive peace that returns rights to their owners and secures Israel's withdrawal from the Golan until the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon.

He stressed that Syria, which considers peace its strategic option, will not relinquish or bargain over any inch of land or any right. He said peace should ensure mutual, balanced [mutawazin], and equitable [mutakafi'] security for all, and that the security of one party should not be at the expense of another party. He also said peace should ensure the interests and rights of all parties, and should be just and comprehensive, because true peace is peace that can last, and this peace cannot be realized without Syria. [passage omitted]

Press Views Damascus, Jerusalem Peace Stands

JN2307095995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0440 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the peace process and Israel's continued policy of dealing separately with each Arab country, especially after it has managed, through this policy, to penetrate Arab ranks by concluding two incomplete agreements which have given it what it wants in terms of imposing conditions and hegemony over the two positions [meaning the Palestinians and Jordanians].

AL-BA'TH stresses: This Israeli method and policy have failed with Syria and Lebanon, something which encouraged it to adopt a new method. So, it has created a way of dealing with each clause in the peace initiative separately by breaking it down and focusing on one clause; namely, the early warning stations. This is as if the entire peace process is summed up under this title on which the Israeli propaganda machine launched a disinformation campaign to make people believe that Syria is the one obstructing the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria does not care about a verbal useless dispute which has nothing to do with the objective set for arriving at a just and comprehensive peace which will achieve security and stability in the region after implementing the bases and principles in accordance with which the peace initiative was launched. These bases and principles are integrated and cannot be dealt with separately.

The paper stresses: What Syria cares for is to emphasize its declared and firm stands. Its continued commitment to giving chances to the peace efforts is based on its strategic option of achieving a just and comprehensive peace which is based on the Israeli withdrawal from all the Golan, southern Lebanon, and all the occupied Arab territories.

The paper expresses the conviction that when Syria reiterates its constants, it expects Israel and the U.S. cosponsor to return to useful negotiations, and not to continue to negotiate for the sake of negotiations.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria's stand toward the warning stations issue has already been defined. It does not care whether Israel creates clamor or not on this issue which we view as a continuation of occupation. We negotiate to liberate every inch of land and to restore every iota of rights.

In its commentary under the headline "The Continued Israeli Sabotage," the newspaper TISHRIN deals with the same subject. It says: Syria has agreed to discuss security arrangements, providing they should be even [muta'adilah] and symmetrical [mutanazirah], do not encroach on its sovereignty over its territory, and do not leave any traces of occupation. However, what happened is that Israel wants to exploit security arrangements to entrench its occupation of part of the Golan under the name of warning stations, something which Syria rejects firmly and strongly.

The paper adds: Peace cannot be achieved without Israel's full withdrawal and without removing Israeli presence in the Golan in full.

TISHRIN stresses: Syria does not only believe in just peace, but it has also exerted and is still exerting immense efforts to achieve this peace. It has saved the peace process from Israel's premeditated sabotage several times. What is happening now is part of the Israeli policy to sabotage peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

TISHRIN points out: Syria, which has fulfilled all its obligations regarding the peace process, did not set impossible conditions as Israel did and is doing. Israel also insists on the policy of hegemony and tyranny, and on arrangements which lack balance and encroach on Syria's sovereignty and dignity. Syria rejects this strongly.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Israel has no choice but to fully withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon and to return to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is if it really seeks to achieve peace.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Every time Syria tries to focus on substantial issues, Israel insists on unimportant issues which are of no use other than engaging the Syrian-Israeli track and the Lebanese-Israeli track with partial issues on unbalanced solutions which cannot be accepted.

The paper says: Israel, which speaks about Syria's lack of understanding, and sheds tears on the available opportunity, forgets that it is the one which should get closer to Syria, and not vice versa. This is because Syria speaks with clear and coherent logic, and its positions are based on international legitimacy and its resolutions. Its officials' statements and stands do not include whims. Eventually, Syria seeks the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions which call for withdrawal to 4 June 1967 lines, and later the implementation of agreed-upon security arrangements which take into consideration the concepts of parallelism [tawazi], equitability [takafu'], and equality [tasawi], and which secure the reciprocity of commitments [tabadul al-iltizamat]. Syria also seeks a security arrangement which makes security something available to both sides, and about which both sides will be reassured under true peace which will continue to be the strongest guarantee for security and stability in the region.

In addition to the aforementioned, AL-THAWRAH says: It is the Israeli side which obstructs peace and places obstacles, taking into consideration that it seeks peace only when it suits Israeli ambitions to continue occupation. Israel seeks security arrangements which are more a symbol of occupation than useful in securing early warning and control, since this is available through other sophisticated means.

Khaddam Offers To Unite Iraqi Opposition

JN2307203095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 95

[From the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam today called for closing the ranks of the Iraqi opposition and offered to mediate in this regard, according to REUTER. Citing a statement issued by the Iraqi Shiite Labor Organization, REUTER said that the Syrian proposal came during Khaddam's meeting with the leader of the organization Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Modaressi. During the meeting, Modaressi noted the negative effects of the ongoing fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq on the effectiveness of the Iraqi opposition and called on Syria to exert efforts to stop this fighting.

The meeting between Khaddam and Modaressi coincides with the visit to Damascus by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly Islamic Revolution in Iraq. Baqir al-Hakim stated that the objective of his visit to Damascus is to discuss ways to unite the Iraqi opposition.

Saudi Crown Prince Holds Talks With al-Asad

JN2207124895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince and, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, at the People's Palace at 2245 yesterday.

Talks dealt with Arab situation and developments, the peace process, and issues of mutual interest.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Damascus at 1315 today after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Reportage, Commentary on UN Special Envoy Visit

Mestiri Arrives With Letter for Rabbani

LD2007162095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, this afternoon arrived in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Mestiri said to our correspondent: I am carrying a special letter from the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, addressed to Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, at this stage of my peace mission.

Yesterday, Mestiri arrived in Jalalabad on the fourth stage of his peace mission.

Discusses Resolutions With Rabbani

LD2107190295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, at the presidential palace and held talks with him on resolving the Afghan problem.

The Presidential Press Office reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting, Mestiri first expressed his views on the ways to resolve our country's problems. Then, stating Afghan support for UN peace efforts, President Rabbani said: The people and the state of Afghanistan are seriously interested in peace and security in their country. If strong action is taken against foreign interference and the current efforts being made are consistent with the realities of our society, the current problems will surely be resolved. The president furnished Mestiri with information about the Afghan proposal as to how to resolve the country's problems.

Expresses Gratitude to Lafra'i

LD2207191395 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in his office today with Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN for Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting Lafra'i made necessary and detailed remarks on the new proposal of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Then Mestiri welcomed the efforts of the envoy from OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Secretary General Hamid Algabid, and said that that organization's efforts should be carried out in harmony with that of the United Nations. Mestiri expressed gratitude for the cooperation and assistance of the Islamic state with the UN peace delegation.

Departs; Said Lacking 'Understanding'

LD2307182095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy for Afghanistan, today left Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

He was expected to have talks with President Borhanoddin Rabbani, the leader of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], the head of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], and the acting foreign minister of Afghanistan. The talks with Sayyaf, leader of Ettehad-e Eslami and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of of Jam'iyat-e Eslami did not take place.

Concerning the issue, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said the negotiations have failed due to Mestiri's lack of understanding of the existing realities in Afghanistan and his lack of impartiality.

Commentary Views Envoy's Peace Efforts

LD2207194595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Concurrent with the resumption of the peace efforts of Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general, the opponents have embarked on fighting against the Islamic state in different parts of the country and the fighting continues. The people of Afghanistan ask that under such conditions in whose interest is the fighting? A BAKHTAR political commentator writes:

It is not the first time that the opponents of the Islamic state have begun fighting in the course of Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri's peace efforts, but at every round of talks the opponents of the state resort to terrorist acts. Our people impatiently ask why the opponents of the state begin fighting every time the UN envoy resumes his efforts. Observers are of the opinion that the warmonger acts of the state's opponents are not accidental, but planned acts supported by foreigners who give them extensive capabilities to unite them against the state, and order them to fight. It is believed that the fighting at this juncture is an attempt by it opponents to achieve more concessions. By putting forward a peace proposal and declaring a readiness to talk to the opponents, the Islamic state has taken effective steps toward cooperation with the UN peace process in Afghanistan because there is no need to fight anymore.

The peace proposal of the Islamic state demands that foreign interference must cease and the vote of the people must be sought. This can be achieved through a Grand Assembly whose members will be appointed by administrative units and in proportion to the population. This way the people can directly participate in determining their fate. Peace meetings must be held inside the country and the United Nations must give guarantees for the implementation of the peace accord. The United Nations will open the doors of talks and understanding with the opponents of state. The special envoy of the UN's secretary general should find a peace formula with special emphasis on the peace proposals of the Islamic state. [Words indistinct] cannot succeed through fighting against the Islamic state. We can only achieve peace through talks and understanding. Despite the fact that the Islamic state has an upper hand in the fighting and has succeeded in foiling the opponents' plots and can resolutely respond to them, it is seeking to resolve the problems through talks and understanding and by political means. [Passage indistinct]

Rabbani Chairs High State Council Session

LD2307182195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Presided over by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and chairman of the High State Council, a session of the High State Council was held today in the presidential palace. The High State Council secretariat reported to BAKHTAR that in today's session talks were held about the country's political situation and the recent developments. The High State Council described as positive the current round of the United Nations and the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] efforts to achieve understanding in Afghanistan, and emphasized the need to obtain good results from them. It was asserted that the present realities of Afghan society will be taken into account in every proposal, as well as the wish and will of the people.

In line with a previous High State Council decision, esteemed engineer Mohammad Ayub, minister of water and electricity, presented a report on the work of the ministry. The High State Council gave specific instructions on the obstacles that interrupt the electricity supply. The Ministry of Water and Electricity was assigned to work more seriously on the normalization of the electricity supply to the city of Kabul so that electricity supply is resumed to the city as soon as possible.

Discussing other issues on the agenda, the High Council instructed the premiership to take the necessary measures to outline educational policy, regularize commercial and economic activities, improve the administrative system, and a number of other issues. It was asked to report back to the High Council about its activities.

Opposition Prepares Attack on Government Forces

LD2007120895 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 20, IRNA — The Afghan opposition forces are preparing a three-pronged attack on government forces, the acting defence minister of Afghanistan told IRNA here Wednesday [19 July].

Mohammad Yunes Qanuni in an interview with IRNA added that coordinated operations of the Islamic national movement, led by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, and the Taleban forces have already begun in northern Afghanistan and in Lowgar and Vardak provinces. At the same time the Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) is reportedly making military movements in Shiru Owbeh region, he added.

The government forces have taken precautionary measures to confront the situation and are certain that the opposition forces will be defeated like in the past, Qanuni told IRNA.

Qanuni also claimed that Dostam's men are besieged in the north and cannot engage in any military operation.

He blamed the Taleban forces for the failure of the negotiations and violation of the previous cease-fire. Qanuni added that the Talebans cannot keep their promises because of lack of a single decision making body and also taking orders from foreigners. "Pakistan does not let the Talebans to keep their words and promises," he told IRNA.

The Afghan official added that the opposition forces cannot reach the areas controlled by the government and its allies because the security belt around Kabul and the three surrounding provinces is tighter than before. In addition, he continued, the opposition has lost part of their forces and equipment while the government forces have been reinforced.

TV Reports on Continued Rabbani-Dostam Clashes

LD2207103295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes are continuing between the forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani of

Afghanistan and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, the leader of the National Islamic Movement of northern Afghanistan. To date, at least 100 men from both sides have been killed. Government forces claim that they have repulsed the latest attack by the forces of the National Islamic Movement of the north.

The Rabbani government has accused the opposition of trying to torpedo the mission of Mahmoud Mestiri, the special envoy of the UN, who is currently in Kabul.

Fighting has also resumed between the Taleban and government forces in Lowgar Province.

India

Commission Meeting With South Africa Detailed

Minister Attends Meeting; Press Release

BK2007103995 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1517 GMT 19 Jul 95

["Press Release" — ISI headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 1. The agreement to set up the India-South Africa Joint Commission was signed by President Mandela and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao early this year when the former paid a state visit to India as chief guest of our Republic Day.

2. The first meeting of the India-South Africa Joint Commission started in Pretoria on July 18th, under the cochairmanship of the Indian minister of state for external affairs Mr. Salman Khursheed, and the South African deputy minister for foreign affairs, Mr. Aziz Pahad.

3. While opening the joint commission Mr. Pahad referred to the close historical links between India and South Africa and the commitment of the leaders of the two countries to establish special relations and said that the joint commission would give tangible substance to this commitment .

4. Mr. Pahad noted that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations provided a useful opportunity to examine critically the functioning of the United Nations and to identify areas where it could be improved.

5. Mr. Pahad sought India's support and cooperation at important multilateral fora like NAM, CHOGM [Nonaligned Movement, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] and the United Nations. He felt that India-South Africa relations should not only be mutually advantageous but should make a positive impact on the region and in the international arena as well. He added that as part of South Africa's desire to play a more active role in international affairs, she would be hosting the next UNCTAD [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development] conference.

6. In the area of bilateral cooperation Mr. Pahad noted that progress had already been made in several areas including low cost housing, small scale industries, defence, diplomatic training etc. In conclusion, the South African minister emphasised the need for in-depth discussion to identify and promote fresh areas for bilateral cooperation.

7. In his response, the Indian minister Mr. Salman Khursheed expressed the joy of the government and the people of India for the success of democracy in South Africa. He recalled the successful visit of President Mandela to India on the occasion of India's Republic Day earlier this year and said that President Mandela was a source of (?inspiration) to people throughout the world [and] as a symbol of fortitude and commitment to justice and equality. It was a fitting tribute to him that the joint commission meeting was taking place on his 77th birthday.

8. Mr. Khursheed recalled the historical links between the two countries but added that we could not now rest on the laurels of the past. We had to delve into our inner strengths and combine and harmonise them for a better future for our peoples.

9. The Indian minister said that the joint commission was a historic occasion to cement bilateral ties and also to provide a mechanism for a joint approach in the wider regional interest. India and South Africa could play an important role in fostering cooperation in the Indian Ocean region since both countries were uniquely placed to contribute to the development of an Afro-Asian personality.

10. With regard to the issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons Mr. Khursheed noted that both countries were committed to global disarmament.

11. In the bilateral fields, Mr. Khursheed said that the joint commission would lay strong foundations for future development and mentioned the possibility of exchange of visits of broad-based economic missions between the two countries. Several ministerial visits were also expected from South Africa in the near future. He said that trade between the two countries had great potential and pointed out that as many as 44 trade delegations from India had already visited South Africa. The future in this area was extremely bright. Already Rand 100 million worth of Indian investment had been made in South Africa and more investment were in the pipeline.

12. Mr. Khursheed said that Indian businesses also looked to South Africa as a major hub for the trans-

shipment of goods to other countries in Africa and to Latin America. This would serve to greatly expand surface transport in the region as a whole.

13. In the area of technical cooperation, the minister said that 60 per cent of India's funds under the Indian technical and economic cooperation (ITEC) programme were earmarked for Africa and in consultation with South Africa, these funds could be further enhanced.

14. The minister identified science and technology as another important area for India-South Africa cooperation. In this context he noted that as a special gesture the Indian prime minister had directed the minister of state in his office, who is also the minister responsible for science and technology, to specially come to South Africa to sign the science and technology cooperation agreement.

15. In conclusion the minister said that India proposed to organise a Festival of India in South Africa in 1997 and looked forward to cooperation from the South African departments concerned in making this endeavour a success.

16. The India South Africa Joint Commission is meeting in Pretoria on 18-19 July. It consists of 5 [as received] sub committees - political, economic, trade and technical cooperation, education and culture, health, and science and technology. At the end of the joint commission meeting, a science and technology cooperation agreement will also be signed.

New Delhi

19 July 1995

Minister Returns, Views Defense Ties

BK2107100395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and South Africa are considering setting up joint ventures for production of military equipment. Both the sides have agreed to bilateral cooperation in the defense sector. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed, who just returned from a three-day visit to South Africa, said in New Delhi today that South Africa has evinced keen interest in coordinating its defense policy with India on security matters relating to the Indian Ocean.

Minister Returns From 'Very Useful' PRC Talks

BK2407055795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, returned to the capital last night after a week-long visit to China. During his stay, Mr. Chavan had a meeting with the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng. He also held discussions with the Chinese public security minister, Mr. Tao Siju. Mr. Chavan said the discussions with the Chinese leaders were very useful, particularly in understanding the need to combat cross-border crimes posing a threat to security.

Continued Reportage on Kidnapped Western Hostages

Kidnappers Report on Wounded Hostages

BK2307164095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 23 (AFP) — Five Western tourists held hostage by Moslem guerrillas in Kashmir remain untraced Sunday [23 July], almost 20 days after the first of them were kidnapped to seek the release of 21 jailed rebels.

Meanwhile, the Al-Faran rebel group which claimed responsibility for the abductions, on Sunday again accused Indian authorities of raiding their hide-out and "firing indiscriminately," causing injuries to two hostages.

"On the night of July 20 Indian troops raided a hide-out in Kapran village in (northern) Anantnag district," a handwritten statement in Urdu circulated in this state summer capital said.

"Two foreigners were injured in the bloody encounter and the condition of one of them is serious," it said. "But we managed to escape safely."

Indian authorities had earlier denied the charge saying: there was "no gunbattle and nobody had been injured."

"There have been no negotiations with the government for the past few days, "the statement said, warning India of "dire consequences" if the Al-Faran demand for the release of 21 jailed militants was not met.

"The responsibility and blame will be on Indian troops," it said. "If our demand is rejected, we cannot guarantee that the foreigners will live."

A massive search operation launched by Indian troops in the woods and mountains of Pahalgam district where they were abducted has yielded no results, worrying the families of the missing men.

Hundreds of soldiers, however, continue the sweep in Pahalgam, a mountain resort about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Srinagar.

Indian officials are tightlipped about the hunt for the hostages and the abductors who are believed to be mainly Afghans, many of whom have plunged into the Kashmiri secessionist struggle.

"We are doing all we can," a police officer said. He gave no details.

The Al-Faran militant group is holding two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian. The first three were kidnapped while they were trekking July 4 and the other two four days later.

They are Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro. Another American who was seized on July 4 escaped and is back in the United States.

Ten of the 21 prisoners on Al-Faran's list were brought to Srinagar last week under heavy security from jails in the country's north, leading to speculation that a swap was imminent.

On Saturday, the wives of four of the abducted tourists returned here from New Delhi, where they met top Indian officials and diplomats to demand an early end to the hostage crisis.

The women met Kashmir officials here early Sunday. Diplomats from the United States, Britain, Germany and Norway are also here.

Meanwhile, six Indian soldiers and militants were killed on Saturday in three separate places in Kashmir, police sources said.

Two of the soldiers and the six militants died in a fierce gunbattle at Budgam, nearly 20 kilometers (12 miles) from here, following a search operation by the troops, the sources said.

Guerrillas shot dead two soldiers while two more were killed by a land mine, the sources said.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in a bloody Moslem separatist drive raging in Kashmir since 1989.

Officials Urge Release of Wounded

BK2407061595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP) — Indian authorities on Monday [24 July] urged Muslim militants holding five Western tourists in Kashmir to free them in response to rebel claims that one of the hostages was critically injured.

The Al-Faran group said Sunday that one of the two Westerners allegedly wounded during a gun-battle with Indian troops last week "was still in a critical condition."

The hostages — two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian — have been in detention since their abductions early this month. The military has carried out a massive search of the mountaineous terrain but failed to find the men.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi the Kashmir administration was willing to provide medical attention to the hostage if he was released without delay.

"If somebody is not well, we will be very keen to ensure that the person is picked up from wherever he is," the spokesman said. "We can fly helicopters, pick him up and see that he gets medical attention at the earliest."

"Taking hostages is against all international convention," the spokesman told AFP. "In fact, Al-Faran should release all five hostages immediately."

The spokesman denied there was any shootout between troops and Al-Faran guerrillas, and said the militant group was putting out "misleading statements to grab media attention."

"They are looking for publicity," he said. "I would not give much credence to their statements."

On Sunday, Al-Faran, which is said to be a group comprising mainly of Afghans, again accused the Indian authorities of attempting to storm their hideout "and firing indiscriminately" on July 20, injuring two hostages.

"Two foreigners were injured in the bloody encounter and the condition of one of them is serious," the group said in a handwritten statement delivered to news agencies in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

Al-Faran had first reported the alleged gunbattle on July 21, and added that it escaped the dragnet along with the hostages.

Sunday's statement warned India of "dire consequences" if Al- Faran's demand for the release of 21 jailed militants was not met.

"If our demand is rejected, we cannot guarantee that the foreigners will live," it said. "The responsibility and blame will be on Indian troops."

Al-Faran is holding two Britons, Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, an American, Donald Hutchings, a German, Dirk Hasert, and a Norwegian, Hans Ostro. The first three were abducted while trekking July 4 in Kashmir's Pahalgam district. The other two were taken four days later.

Another American who was seized on July 4 escaped and is back in the United States.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in a bloody Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir since 1989.

Minister Assails Bombing, Views Hostage Efforts

BK2107162995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has announced the setting up of a special task force to probe yesterday's bomb blast in Purani Mandi area of Jammu. Mr. Pilot, who arrived in Jammu today to take stock of the situation, told newsmen that the task force will be headed by an officer of the rank of DIG [deputy inspector general of police] and comprise the personnel from the state police and IB [Intelligence Bureau].

The minister, who is accompanied by the union home secretary, held detailed discussions with senior state civil and police officers. Mr. Pilot also visited the Government Medical Hospital in Jammu and inquired about the condition of the injured. He said the center will provide all possible help to the state government to trace the culprits responsible for the blast, which left 17 people dead and 46 injured. The police are reported to have got some clues about the culprits.

A bundh [strike] was observed in Jammu and several other towns of the Jammu Division today in protest against the blast. The bundh — called by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party, and other organizations — was complete and by and large peaceful.

There has been widespread condemnation of the blast both at the national and the state level. In New Delhi, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said incidents like this will have no effect on the government's determination to revive the political process in the state. He said the blast was part of the proxy war launched by the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] of Pakistan against India.

The BJP demanded that the entire Jammu region be declared a disturbed area. An emergency meeting of the party's national executive also felt that the incident will have a destabilizing effect on the northwestern border.

The union civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, appealed to the people of the state to maintain peace and harmony and defeat the designs of the vested interests.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] criticized the state's intelligence for its failure to arrest the culprits.

The president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, said there would be a high-level inquiry into the blast.

Former union ministers Dr. Karan Singh and Mufti Mohammad Sayeed have also condemned the blast. Similar statements of condemnation have come in from various political parties, social organizations, religious bodies, and other organizations in Jammu and Srinagar.

The state government has announced an ex gratia relief of 1 lakh rupees each for the families of the dead and 1,000 to 25,000 rupees for those injured.

In the Kashmir Valley, all efforts are on to secure the safe release of the five kidnapped foreign tourists. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the government is keeping a constant watch over the situation. He said the government hopes that the militants will see reason and release the innocent tourists without any delay.

The Jammu and Kashmir political leaders conference which concluded its two-day meeting in Srinagar today urged the Kashmiri youth to shun the path of the gun and seek redressal of their grievances through democratic means. Briefing newsmen, the convener of the conference, Professor Bhim Singh, said that the leaders of the political parties welcomed the prime minister's offer of a dialogue with all concerned on the issue of greater autonomy to the state. The meeting urged the Hurriyat Conference to respond positively to this offer.

The union minister for civil supplies, Mr. Buta Singh, who is currently on a visit to the state, expressed the hope that normalcy will be restored soon as people have suffered a lot due to militancy. Addressing a meeting of district officers at Baramula today, he called upon them to turn up the administrative machinery and remove the grievances of the people.

Further on Bomb Inquiry

BK2207112995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the bomb blast in Jammu on Thursday [20 July]. The State Administrative Council which met in Srinagar yesterday reviewed the situation arising out of the incident. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, chaired the meeting.

The council ordered transfer of a number of senior police officers. The investigation into the explosion has been entrusted to a special task force headed by the superintendent of police, Mr. Gulzar Singh. The police have announced a reward of 100,000 rupees to anyone who provides vital clues which will help in nabbing the culprits.

Meanwhile, the state government has denied the report that an encounter had taken place between the security forces and the abductors of the five foreign tourists in Pahalgam area yesterday. An official spokesman told the AIR Srinagar correspondent that there is no truth in the report. The spokesman said hectic efforts are continuing at different levels to secure the safe release of the kidnapped tourists. Earlier, an agency report quoting the militant outfit, Al-Faran, said that two of the captives were injured in a clash between militants and the security forces, but the report did not identify the two injured hostages.

The United States has appealed to all governments in South Asia to influence the kidnappers of the foreign tourists in Kashmir for the early release of the hostages. A State Department spokesman in Washington renewed the U.S. appeal to the captors for setting free the hostages who are innocent victims.

A five-member BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] delegation met the prime minister in New Delhi yesterday and submitted a memorandum detailing what it called the worsening law and order situation in the Jammu region. The delegation included Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Mr. Sikandar Bakht, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and Mr. S.S. Bhandari.

The National Council of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has also condemned the bomb blast in Jammu. In a statement, it said that dastardly act of political cowards inspired by forces from across the border is aimed at engineering communal disharmony. The All India Minorities Front has urged the government to identify those responsible for Thursday's bomb blast in Jammu and punish. In a press release in New Delhi, it alleged that such blasts are conducted at the behest of the Pakistan Government and India should expose Pakistan by raising the issue of such human rights violations at international forums.

Radio Reports on Ambush by 'Militants' in Kashmir

BK2307135395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to latest reports, seven Army personnel and three militants were killed in an ambush by the militants at Puneja village of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. Five Army men and three militants were killed on the spot and two Army men succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Additional forces have been rushed to the area.

Meanwhile, cautious and continuous efforts are on to secure the safe release of the kidnapped foreign tourists.

Significance of BJP-BSP Alliance Viewed

Principles Discarded

95AS0448A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 5 Jun 95 p 6

[Article by Manmohan Sharma: "BJP has Stupefied The Political World By Supporting the BSP in Uttar Pradesh"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ms. Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] has become the chief minister with Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] support. It is common knowledge that the life of this non-principled and opportunist alliance is limited.

It is understood that at the direction of the Congress High Command the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Motilal Vohra dismissed the Mulayam government, and offered the distinction of becoming the first low caste chief minister to the General Secretary of the BSP, Ms. Mayawati, by inviting her to form her government.

It is said that the counselors to the prime minister were divided on the issue of removing Mulayam Singh's government. Kunwar Jitendra Prasad and Company was in favor of retaining Mulayam Singh. Captain Satish Sharma argued for President's rule. On the advise of A. N. Verma and his friends, the Prime Minister decided in favor of Mayawati. The rationale being that it would be a short lived government and will be beneficial to the Congress alone. It would expose the BJP's morality and its high-caste bank of votes would fall in the hands of the Congress. In contrast, the Congress can get only a portion of Kansi Ram's lower class vote bank. The argument advanced against President's Rule was that both the BJP and Kansi Ram will label such an action as anti lower caste.

Narashima Rao by this decision has once again proved that in politics no one is a permanent friend to anyone. Mulayam Singh, on the other hand, will decisively gain from this decision.

This development has given a set back to the BJP's dream of capturing power in Delhi. This is a shameful example of how in the charm of power two fierce foes can become friends overnight. The role played by the Punjabi industrialist Jayant Malhotra in aligning the BJP with the BSP is notable. This man has been a power broker, and has reached Kanshiram after having served Janta Dal's Ram Krishna Hedge, V.P. Singh, Chander Shekher, and Rajiv Gandhi. The BJP has started worshiping Kansi Ram instead of Sri Ram.

Delhi's old journalists know Mayawati from her days in 1973 when she served as an ordinary nanny in a Karolbag school in Satnagar. Nine of her family members lived in a room nearby. Babu Kansi Ram used to live in neighboring Rangpura.

This decision has also proved that the BJP's claim of treating politics on principles and morality is only a show. In the lure of power the BJP can seek alliance with anyone. This fresh decision is an example of its being an opportunist and non-principled party.

As far as Kansi Ram is concerned, it can be said with certainty that he never claimed to have principles like the BJP. His declared goal is to acquire power. He has never tried to hide it under labyrinth of words.

BJP's Opportunist Policy Exposed

The Hindu scriptures mention that God deprives one of wisdom before He destroys him. That is why this proverb is prevalent, "At the time of ruin one starts acting contrary to his interests." Till recently the BJP leaders called Kansi Ram a troublemaker instigating communal hatred and Kansi Ram called the BJP leaders purist Brahmins. He also felt the BJP was a communal party. Today both these parties have forgotten their differences and are like butter and sugar. This is an example of opportunism in Indian politics.

The BJP may have been a party of moralists, idealists, and nationalists but ever since it has tasted power the architects of this party can do anything to acquire it. They have no ideals and know no bounds to negotiations. [passage omitted]

The BJP, in the hope of getting votes from the backward classes continued to silently support the Mandal Commission. Many young men and women sacrificed their lives but the BJP, in the greed of power, remained a silent spectator.

For six years the leaders of the BJP showed no interest at the time Hindu Vishwa Parishad [VHP] raised the issue of Lord Ram's birth place. When the elections drew closer this issue was included in the party manifesto at the Palampur Party Convention. Party leader Lal Krishan Advani was successful in getting the religious docile Hindu votes by completing a journey on the "Ram Chariot". The leaders of the BJP displayed sorrow at the destruction of the Babri Mosque. Now when the VHP has raised the issue of Lord Krishna's birth place at Mathura and the restoration of the original Gyanvapi mosque built at the site of Lord God Vishwa Nath in Varanasi, the BJP leaders have dismissed the issues by saying that these are not part of their agenda. Fear of losing Muslim votes was the reason for this decision.

The BJP has now announced its support in Uttar Pradesh for Kansi Ram's BSP in the mirage of getting lower caste votes.

It is important to discuss why this BJP decision is self inflicting. Mainly the higher castes in Uttar Pradesh form the basis of the BJP. A few Lodh Rajputs may be with the BJP because of ties with [former chief minister] Kalayn Singh. The BJP, in the name of "Ram" got lower and backward class votes but they later went to "backward" Kansi Ram, whereas Mulayam Singh collected Muslim and "backward" votes. It is note worthy that in western Uttar Pradesh Jats vigorously supported the BJP. In the hill regions the upper castes also supported BJP. The BJP was wiped out in the mid and eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh areas considered their stronghold.

As far as Kansi Ram is concerned his political basis has always been the lower and oppressed classes. It is a marvel of Indian politics that Kansi Ram could never politically prosper in his native Punjab. There the record of his party simply reflects confiscation of (election) security money. A similar condition exists in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The poison of caste calamity planted by him with Mayawati has prospered well in Uttar Pradesh.

The high castes of Uttar Pradesh have not yet forgotten Kansi Ram's sharp slogans like, "Jats and Muslims are brothers, where did the Hindu race come from" and "Beat the upper three castes with shoes." Now the BJP has entered into an agreement with this party.

At one time the BJP advocated dividing the country in five regions but now it has changed its color, and in the greed of votes it demands further division of the states into smaller units. Is the separation of states into smaller units not against the concept of national unity?

This opportunism of the BJP leadership will end its association with the upper castes of Uttar Pradesh. The Congress will be the clear benefactor in this situation because the upper caste voters scared of Kansi Ram will favor Congress. The BJP is not going to get lower caste votes anyway. Backward Caste votes are in Mulayam Singh's pocket. Change it may as many times as it wants, the Muslims in Uttar Pradesh will not cast their vote for the BJP as they still hold BJP responsible for the destruction of Babri Mosque. It is most important to note that the adverse impact of the BJP's and Kansi Ram's alliance will affect the BJP and Shiv Sena arrangement in Maharashtra.

Coalition Governments Unstable

To date any coalition governments formed with the alliance of different parties in Uttar Pradesh have not proved stable. Within a few months because of mutual differences they saw their downfall. [passage omitted]

It is noteworthy that nobody had any second thoughts about the life of the joint Samajwadi Party [SP] and BSP government formed under the leadership of Mulayam Singh Yadav. Both Mulayam Singh and Kansi Ram consider themselves as great leaders and they are not willing to accept anyone else's direction. Contrary to his character, Mulayam Singh Yadav, always degraded himself in front of Mayawati and Kansi Ram in the greed to remain the chief minister, and paid very dearly for it.

The first confrontation took place on the issue of appointing high officials, who had supported the respective parties, to position which brought a high outside income. Deputy Inspector General Chaturvedi was suspended on Mayawati's insistence because he was a Brahmin and had sinned by publishing Mayawati's views on Mahatma Gandhi in a police magazine. Subsequently, because of being a Brahmi,n the chief secretary of Uttar Pradesh Subramanayam had to move.

After this the Education Minister Mansud Ahmed on an indication given by Mulayam Singh revolted against Kansi Ram. Kansi Ram alleged that Mulayam Singh in so doing aims to capture BSP's Muslim votes. At Kansi Ram's threat to withdraw his support, Mulayam Singh surrendered. He, within 16 hours, had Mansud Ahmed's household goods thrown out of his residence.

Kansi Ram, in order to steal Mulayam Singh's Muslim votes, convened a Muslim rally at the Halim College in Kanpur. In a meeting in Allahabad he threatened to overthrow the Mulayam government. During the same month, in a meeting at Lucknow, Kansi Ram and the Chief Minister had an open exchange of fireworks.

In the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council elections the BSP legislators opposed the SP candidates. In Meerut, Mulayam Singh collided with Mayawati on the issue of erecting a statue of Ambedkar on public lands but the chief minister surrendered. Mulayam Singh reorganized his cabinet upon pressure applied by Kansi Ram. In the Panchayat elections supporters of the chief minister cleaned out Kansi Ram's followers. This caused the BSP to announce withdrawal of its support to the SP government.

New Era Beginning

95AS0448B Varanasi AJ in Hindi 5 Jun 95 p 2

[Article by AJ Staff: "A New Era is Beginning in the State Due to Mayawati's Becoming Chief Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The local BJP leaders appeared happy after three dramatic days of political events in the state capital, including dismissal of the Mulayam government and Mayawati becoming chief minister, while leaders of Congress (I) and other secular parties called it a new type of political deceit. The leaders of the Samajwadi Party have called the BJP alliance with Kansi Ram a manipulation of the unity of the minorities, oppressed and the backwards.

Prominent leaders of the BJP in a joint statement, pleased with the Governor's decision, and with the BSP in rescinding its support to the Mulayam government said that, "to the state it will bring a new political direction and will begin a new era based on the spirit of national development and the reforms for the minorities". Prominent amongst the signatories were Messrs Vishavnath Vashistha, former central minister Narasingh Yadav, former minister Rajbali Tiwari, Prem Prakash Narayan Mitra, and Rake Vashistha. The BJP's first objective, the statement says, is to deliver the state population from the wrongdoings of the Mulayam government. To this end BJP's daring support of the Bahujan Samaj Party is a solid example of its intent to be a true patron of the minorities and the degraded.

In a joint statement the Chairman of the BJP Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Mr. Virendra Shanker Shah, the Secretary of the Party's metropolitan unit Mr. Sachidanandan Devvanshi, and Messrs Lallaram Kushvaha, Suresh Chaurasia, and Lakshamandas Jaiswal, said that, "the Governor's action is applaudable but is a step taken too late." A timely action could have avoided the split of the BSP, and the misbehavior of the SP supported anti-government elements with BSP legislators at the Lucknow guest house. They have appealed to the new chief minister Mayawati not to acquit these anti-government constituents who pose a threat to the democratic process.

The BJP district chairman Mr. Surendra Kumar Singh, the chairman of the youth wing Mr. Rajesh Singh, Lallan Upadhayay, Gulab Singh, Servesh Kushvaha, Rana Pratap Singh and others have said in a joint statement that the people are relieved at the dismissal of the corrupt and casteist Mulayam government. This should have been done long ago. In installing a "subjugated" lady as the state chief minister the BJP has demonstrated that it is the only patron of the minorities and the oppressed classes. It is expected that the state Chief Minister Mayawati will march forward with the (involvement of the) entire society, and will put an end to the casteism and anti-government elements.

In their joint statement the vice chairman of the district Congress Committee Mr. Satish Chaubey and C(I) leader Mr. Ashok Mitra stated that Governor Motilal Vohra's invitation to Ms. Mayawati to form her government is a welcome decision. Any further delay could have ignited communal riots in the entire state. The misuse of law and order by Mulyam Singh Yadav in clinging to power had clearly demonstrated that he is a man of illicit character whom the state tolerated with great difficulty since May 18. In conclusion, they have appealed the chief minister to pull politics from the clutches of casteism and to hasten the process of peaceful development for the good of the state.

In their joint announcement the provincial secretary for organization of the Congress Seva Dal Mr. Baijnath Singh, district chairman Anwaruhak Khan, chief city organizer Gopal Das and vice-chairman Rajendra Prasad Jaiswal have said that the political alliances made on the basis of blind self interest by political parties lacking in principles results in such failures. These leaders have further said that the Mulayam government which gained power on the slogans of oppressed and backward classes, casteism, and so called secularism should have resigned long ago because of their undemocratic, and anti-public activities. Seva Dal leaders have also expressed their fears on the formation of the government by Bahujan Samaj Party with support from the BJP saying that the new formula will also prove to be deceitful for the state.

A prominent Samajvadi Party leader, Mr. Vijay Narayan, in a statement says that the BSP in withdrawing its support of the Mulayam government has saved SP's image from tarnishing due to its (BSP's) inimical deeds. It will be worthy to note that how long does the BJP tolerates Mayawati rule. The BJP had made a lot of noise at Mayawati's utterances against Mahatma Gandhi. Now they are supporting her. This double faced politics is their inheritance.

The provincial vice-chairman of the Janta Dal and former M.L.C. Mr. Shyamlal, provincial general secretary Mr. Promod Madhur, and JD leader A. K. Rai, in a joint statement have asked the center not to support the BSP in Uttar Pradesh in any way after the BJP support in forming their government.

The statement continues to say that any support by communal and fascist groups to the BSP in Uttar Pradesh will send wrong signals to the minorities, underdeveloped and repressed classes in regard to (BSP's) policies and principles. In conclusion, because of the politically unstable condition in the state it asks the Governor to dissolve the legislative assembly and to order fresh elections.

On the other hand the president of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Socialist Service Institution and distinguished SP leader Ms. Dr. Krishna Nigam has stated that Bahujan Samaj Party's decision to withdraw its support of the Mulayam government is very unfortunate. Such a decision by Kansi Ram has hurt the cause of the Bahujan community. Addressing the party workers at the Sarnath party office he said, "this decision sacrifices the interest of the country and amounts to a stab in the back to gain power". He said that the present political events should not discourage party workers. Dr. Kavindra Narayan Singh, the secretary of the Institution, said that the political changes cannot change the socialistic ideology and the socialist ideas will continue to prosper with the collective participation. The SP leader Narendra Bahadur was hopeful that Mulayam Singh who has always come out of deep troubles will successfully emerge out of his present troubles. The meeting was attended by Kamlesh Singh Kushwaha of the Lohia Institution and SP, Rizvan Ali, Nurul Hasan, Sohrab Ali, Abdul Kayum, Kaloo Yadav, Sunil Srivastava, Rajesh Singh and a large number of SP workers.

In a joint statement the district chief of the Samata Party Dr. Rajendra Kumar Singh and the district general secretary Mr. Narendra Nath Singh said that a crack in the BSP and SP alliance will weaken the social justice. Kansi Ram's compromise with the communal forces is indicative of country's misfortune. According to the state secretary of the Communist Paty of India- Marxist [CPM] Mr. Akhilendra Pratap Singh the cause of Kansi-Mulayam split is political opportunism. Mulayam government has lost the backing of its allies and rather then attracting members by jumping parties or inducement or to continue in power under the protection of Rao government, it should dissolve the cabinet and resign immediately. The BSP with its reactionary politics and new Brahminism has once again exposed Kansi Ram who is bent upon forming the government with the BJP support. The CPM has appealed to all leftist socialist, secular powers not to support the BJP-BSP alliance.

Iran

Officials View Lack of Action on Serb Aggression

Prayers' Leader Criticizes 'Silence'

LD2207185795 Tehran IRNA in English
1736 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Tehran Province, July 22, IRNA — Silence and indifference of organizations, who pretent to support human rights, on Serb crimes in the safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina, is shameful.

Ayatollah Meshkini, addressing the Friday prayers congregation in Qom, south of Tehran, said the Serbs are committing new crimes everyday against the oppressed Muslims in Bosnia, while the world has not shown any reaction towards this tragedy.

He added that the Serbs being supported by their masters, have exerted all their efforts to prevent the formation of an Islamic government in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The brutal measures launched by the Serbs indicate their treacherous and inhuman objectives.

The leader of the Qom Friday prayer urged the government of the Islamic republic of Iran to do its utmost to prevent the continuation of Serbs' crimes.

Official: West Wishes for Continuation

*LD2307072495 Tehran IRNA in English
0717 GMT 23 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — A senior Foreign Ministry official while outlining current developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressed that the West wishes for continuation of the conflict in the Republic.

Head of the department for central and north European affairs Ebrahim Rahimpur, told the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES that "fifty-one percent of Bosnia is alloted to Muslims and Croats, while the remaining 49 percent is for the Serbs, but at present the criminal Serbs rule over 70 percent of this region."

In spite of the heinous acts of the Serbs against the innocent people of Bosnia, and in spite of the Rapid Reaction Force, the European countries and the big powers don't show a firm reaction, he added.

Rahimpur believes that Bosnia is different from Iraq since there is no oil in Bosnia and, therefore, the big powers have no desire to invest in a country in which they have no material benefits.

He added that the Bosnian Government has realized that it is useless to hope for the help of European countries.

The Western countries have made no effort to rescue 70,000 innocent people in Srebrenica and 20,000 others in Zepa.

He explained that when the UN peacekeeping forces were taken hostage by the Serbs, the European countries raised a big tumult while they displayed an indifferent reaction over the man-slaughter of thousands of people in Bosnia.

As for the fall of Srebrenica, the Foreign Ministry official said that the war in Srebrenica and Zepa is a war against humanity and human rights.

"The Bosnian Government has not been able to send its troops to these cities, most of the conflicts are between the UN forces and the Serbs," Rahimpur added.

Referring to Iran's firm stance toward the crisis in Bosnia, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to send its peacekeeping troops to Bosnia and has asked for the lifting of the embargo agianst the Republic.

He concluded by saying that in the recent tripartite meeting of Iran, Bosnia and Greece, the three countries called on Belgrade to recognize Bosnia, emphasizing the establishment of a ceasefire in that region.

Official Says UK Decisions 'Green Light'

LD2307111395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Central News Unit, at the start of today's open session of the Majles, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said that the decisions of the recent London conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina are a disgraceful blemish on international forums and give the green light to insurgent Serbs to continue their crimes. He said: When they declare that, in the event of a Serb attack on Gorazde, NATO's forces will move into action, what this means is that they have put their seal of approval on the slaughter of the Muslims of the cities of Srebrenica and Zepa and on Serb crimes throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Majles speaker added: The behavior of the United Nations and the Security Council shows that they themselves want the Muslims to be driven out of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and that through their silence they approve of the crimes committed by the Serbs. It is clear that the regions declared to be safe are there to provide security for the Serbs so that they may continue their inhuman deeds under the protection of the United Nations.

The head of the legislative branch criticized and expressed regret at silence and indifference in the face of the savage deeds of the Serbs and the slaughter of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims. He called on the world of Islam to adopt a serious and firm decision on Bosnia-Herzegovina and carry it out.

Cleric Calls Tragedy Western 'Scandal'

*LD2307184495 Tehran IRNA in English
1815 GMT 23 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — A senior cleric here Sunday [23 July] called on all Muslim ulema in Islamic and non-Islamic countries and also on world freedom thinkers to exert pressure on Muslim governments to mobilize politically, militarily and financially in defense of the oppressed Bosnian nation.

The leader's representative in charge of Bosnia-Herzegovina affairs, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in a statement issued here Sunday, termed the Bosnian tragedy as the West's "biggest scandal" in the 20th century and urged the Muslim ulema to divulge the role of big governments in this appalling incident.

Jannati considered the indifference of the United Nations and the procrastination of the Islamic states as the cause of annihilation of Bosnian Muslim nation and appearance of "second Palestine" and "another Andalusia."

The statement said that most of the Islamic countries, except a few ones, have refrained from offering any assistance to the defenseless Bosnian Muslims and refused to fulfil their "divine and humanitarian duties."

Velayati Pleased About OIC Decisions on Bosnia

LD2207214795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On his return to Tehran on Saturday [22 July], from the meeting of the foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the results of the meeting as very positive in comparison with previous meetings, and said that it possessed special features.

Mr. Velayati said: The communique issued by the foreign ministers of the Islamic contact group is a brave one and it highlights the weaknesses of the meeting of the Western Contact Group, which was held at the same time in London. He added: At its meeting, the Islamic contact group openly stressed that Bosnia has the right, like any other country, to defend itself and to have weapons, and a number of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries taking part in the Geneva meeting made a commitment, at a private meeting that took place at the end of the Geneva meeting, to lend defense assistance to Bosnia [as heard].

He added: Islamic countries object to the West's stance on Bosnia and consider it to be unfair.

Mr. Velayati said the following in connection with the third meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Greece, and Bosnia held in Athens: In view of Athens' close relations with Belgrade, as well as Greece's ties with Iran and Bosnia, we hope that these trilateral meetings will persuade the government in Belgrade to stop helping the Bosnian Serbs and to give official recognition to Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Uzbekistan Minister Pays Official Visit to Tehran

Arrives, Meets Velayati

LD2307192495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister of Uzbekistan [Abdulaziz Kamilov] arrived in Tehran this evening and was welcomed by [Iranian Foreign Minister] 'Ali Akbar Velayati. At their first round of talks, which was held an hour later, Abdulaziz Kamilov stressed the importance of the role played by Iran in the region, and called for the expansion and consolidation of ties between the two countries, especially in the fields of transport and banking.

The Uzbek foreign minister referred to the efforts made by Iran toward the establishment of peace in Tajikistan and described the recent agreement reached between the opposition leader and president of Tajikistan in Tehran as a great success. He declared Uzbekistan's willingness to cooperate with Tehran toward the establishment of peace in Tajikistan.

Mr. Velayati, for his part, expressed pleasure concerning the growing trend of ties between the two countries and declared Iran's readiness to cooperate with Uzbekistan with regards to road links, railways, air links, and communications.

Further on Talks With Velayati

LD2307210995 Tehran IRNA in English 2056 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July [Word indistinct] IRNA — The Uzbek foreign minister, Abdulaziz Kamilov conferred with his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, here Sunday [23 July].

Lauding Iran's "significant and fateful" role in regional security and cooperation, he said the Uzbek President, Islam Karimov has stressed the need for promotion of relation between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Kamilov also praised Iran for its role in restoring peace and security into the region. He termed the ceasefire agreement signed between the the government of Tajikistan and the opposition in Tehran last week, as a "significant historical move."

The Uzbek foreign minister stated, "the important issue in Tajikistan is peace and serenity and we are prepared to cooperate and help the Islamic Republic of Iran in its continuous efforts to bring peace both to Tajikistan and Afghanistan".

Kamilov then extended the invitation of the Uzbek president to the Iranian foreign minister to attend a security cooperation conference of the Central Asian republics in Tashkent on September 15. He stated that Iran was the first country to have been extended the invitation.

Kamilov said his visit has opened up a new phase in the relations between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Velayati pointed out the ancient history of Uzbekistan and its independence after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the development of relations between the two countries.

He cited the formation of a joint commission as a suitable framework to adjust the realtions between the two countries. The foreign minister expressed Iran's readiness to help Uzbekistan in the spheres of communication, road and railroad construction, airways, and banking system.

Attends Opening of Uzbek Embassy

LD2307211395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan was officially opened on Sunday [23 July] night in the presence of the foreign ministers of Iran and Uzbekistan.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Uzbek embassy opening ceremony was attended by the ambassadors of the CIS member countries and the political officials of the two countries. In an interview with our correspondent, the Uzbek foreign minister described the opening of the Uzbek embassy in Tehran as an important step in enhancing the level of ties between the two countries in all spheres.

Stressing the fact that the expansion of ties with Central Asian countries has priority in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan not only will be in the interest of the two countries, but will have positive effect in the development of the region.

Our foreign minister was interviewed by our correspondent on the subject:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Please tell us how important the opening of Uzbek embassy in Tehran will be in enhancing the level of cooperation between the two countries.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Without doubt, as his excellency the Uzbek foreign minister said, the official opening of the Uzbek embassy in Tehran is a strong foundation for expansion of ties between the two countries. The relations between Iran and Uzbekistan are advancing slowly, but strongly. What was said by the Uzbek foreign minister to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was that they have come to Iran in order to implement the agreements signed between the presidents of the two countries in their reciprocal visits to each other's capitals.

As you know, many agreements and accords were signed between the two countries. We are hoping to see the implementation of these agreements one after the other in near future. As Uzbekistan is one of the important countries in the Central Asia and Iran has given priority in its policy to the expansion of ties with the Central Asian countries, therefore, cooperation between the two countries in various spheres will not only have bilateral effects, but will have strong effects on the expansion of regional cooperation and contribute toward stability and security in this sensitive region of the world. This is another example of the fact that it is the countries in the region that must build a foundation for a comprehensive cooperation with each other's help and assistance. The opening of embassies in the capitals of the countries is a safe means and is a guarantee for the continuation of this wish and the implementation of the wishes of the two nations. [end recording]

Denies Backing U.S. Embargo

LD2307195795 Tehran IRNA in English 1943 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the visiting Uzbek Foreign Minister, Abdulaziz Kamilov and called for close bilateral cooperation between the two muslim states.

"Maintenance of vigilance in taking stances and making diplomatic statements will impair the enemies from harming bilateral cooperation between the two countries," said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the meeting.

The president pointed out that the two sides should clearly and expressively declare their stances so as to rob those countries, who do not want to see firm relations between Uzbekistan and Iran, of the opportunity of propagandizing.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then indicated the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in bringing peace and stability to the area specifically Tajikistan. He also expressed hope that other countries in the region like Uzbekistan will help Iran in restoring peace and stability in Tajikistan.

The Uzbek foreign minister, conveyed the "sincere greetings" of the Uzbek president, Karimov, who in his message expressed the need for the promotion and solidarity of the relations between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Kalimov also expressed that Uzbekistan is interested in exchanging views with the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional, international, political, trade and economic matters.

The Uzbek foreign minister proposed the formation of a joint commission within a period of a month in Tashkent for the materialization of these goals. The commission would study the ways of promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Kamilov denied the claim that Uzbekistan has backed up the U.S. embargo against Iran. "We are of the opinion that a close cooperation between the two countries should be created not only in the areas of trade and economy, but also in political and diplomatic spheres," he noted.

Khamene'i Leads Funeral Procession for 'Martyrs'

LD2107161295 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, here today led a funeral procession that shouldered coffined bodies of about 2,700 combatants martyred on the battlefronts during the war years.

The presence in the procession of the leader of the Islamic revolution infused an aura of dignifying sanctity in the ceremony that was public homage to the martyrs before their burial later in the day.

As the long procession started off from Tehran University campus immediately after the conclusion of the mid-day mass prayers, helicopters flying overhead strew flowers on their coffins.

Among the thousands of marchers participating in the procession were cabinet members, Majles deputies, members of the Guardian Council, and senior army and state officials.

An official at the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces told IRNA here Friday [21 July] that the massive participation of the people in the procession would expectably anger the enemies of the Islamic revolution.

Meanwhile, about 200 of the group of those martyrs are from Tehran and the rest from various provinces. The bodies of the latter group are to be sent to their own provinces for burial later on this week, he said.

Interior Minister Discusses Domestic Issues

NC1807102595 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Jul 95 pp 1-2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati attended a sincere interview with ABRAR and answered questions put to him.

In the two-hour interview the interior minister discussed the elections, the difference between the job of a deputy and of an executive official, the activities of parties and groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Interior Ministry's role in the government's foreign exchange policies, the fight against drugs, officials' approach to the people, and the security of the country.

Elections

According to the law the Interior Ministry is in charge of the elections. We will prepare the necessary atmosphere for holding clean elections and for the participation of all those people who have the right to vote. The Interior Ministry will use all its resources—from influence to facilities—so that more people can exercise their right in this important issue. The number of people who want to participate in the elections is important to us. Our efforts are directed toward increasing the participants.

There are some elements that are involved in this. We are one of these elements. We have proven our impartiality in elections. We have tried to select erudite people who know their duties, who know the law, who are experienced and revolutionary, and who are—above all—impartial. [passage omitted]

The Difference Between Deputy and Executive Activities

A deputy and an executive official are two different categories. Deputies compile laws and understand what laws the country needs. Executive officials implement the laws. These two are separate but related. [passage omitted]

The Activity of Parties and Groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 10 of the election law approved by the Majles envisages a commission comprising two Majles deputies, two representatives of the Judiciary, and one representative of the Interior Ministry to study requests for the activities of parties, groups, or natural and legal entities.

According to the law, we examine these requests, that is, a request by any group, party, or political or guild formation to the Article 10 Commission is examined, and this commission then grants them the permission for activities on the basis of the law and within the Constitution. Over 70 political and guild formations have been granted permission.

When we discuss a formation, we immediately think of a "party." For example, the Islamic Republic Party, or the Liberation Movement, or the Militant Clergy Association, or the Militant Clerics Association are all important formations for us.

These formations are active in universities and elsewhere. Their charters have been approved and they have received permission to print their publications and operate freely.

The Country's Foreign Exchange Policies

The atmosphere that ruled the country's economy in the latter part of 1373 [year ending 20 March 1995] and in the first two months of 1374 made the government resort to an all-aspected move on 3 Khordad [24 May] on the issue of foreign exchange rates.

A friend once told me that he wanted to buy some turnips. When he was told they cost 1,300 rials a kilo, he asked why they were so expensive. The answer was that the dollar rate had reached 6,000 rials. Therefore we see everything joining hands to propagandize in favor of the dollar. [passage omitted]

To stabilize the dollar rate at 3,000 rials, the government took two steps. First, it imported the basic produce needed by the people. And second, it fought the unrestrained entry of goods that were being smuggled into the country.

We took many steps in relation with this, we increased control on the borders, we strengthened the Law-Enforcement Forces [LEF] in Hormozgan Province, we established strict control over sea routes, we contacted the Omani Government (to prevent the entry of smuggled goods from Khasab Port to Iran), and we confronted those who were importing these goods. I believe the steps that have been taken will stabilize the foreign exchange rate and help to bring it down to its real value.

We Have No Doubts in the Fight Against Drugs

Cars used to carry drugs from Afghanistan and stop behind the borders in Yazd. But this does not happen now. Then, only Afghanistan and Pakistan manufactured opium. But now Central Asian countries have been added to this list. Our problems have increased. Afghanistan used to manufacture 3,000 tonnes of opium each year. But now it manufactures 6,000 tonnes.

When we say drugs do not enter the country by convoys, this does not mean they do not enter the country at all. The LEF's duty is not solely to seize opium. It has dozens of other problems such as robberies, foreign exchange [smuggling], and so on to deal with. We have no doubts about our fight against drugs and in preventing their entry into the country. We think we have been very successful in this field during the past two years.

On Relations With the People

The more we establish contact with the people, the less tired we feel. Numerous requests can sometimes tire a person. But we feel satisfied when we see the people's problems being solved.

There are two categories of people. The first category, 90 percent of the population, has legitimate requests. They may have a problem that can be solved by a telephone call or note. But the rest have unacceptable requests. For example, they may want to evade taxes or avoid paying fees for work permits. But when I see someone's problems being solved, I am satisfied. For most people who have a request, it is not important for them if their problem is solved finally or not. Simply seeing their minister and shaking hands with him makes them feel that 50 percent of their problem has already been solved.

Many of the people who come here with requests do not go away empty-handed. We solve most of their problems, whether the problems are related to us or not.

The People Should Feel Calm

The meaning of security differs from country to country. We determine what security is according to our laws and our culture. For example, if, in the West, security means the culture of nakedness, in our country it is the hijab [Islamic attire]. When we see the issue of Islamic attire weakening, we say our country's security has been harmed. If "values" among people begin to lose their luster, we say we are facing insecurity. But as far as physical and personal security is concerned, this means the people feel safe in their homes and in society.

Write About Everything

Every morning when I come to work I read ABRAR with great interest.

Stay independent. Write about the government's positive work but also reflect problems. The people will be the judge. The press should reflect the facts. It should neither overstate nor understate facts. It should write everything. Report favorably so that you will help the officials feel that what they are doing is worthwhile.

Judiciary Head Gives Friday Prayers Second Sermon

LD2107173595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1055 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, in Tehran on 21 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] There is horrific and sorrowful news from the heart of Europe. A region which claimed to be civilized cannot lift its head in shame today. It has nullified its civilization. The most abominable and the worst human tragedy has occurred in the center of Europe. And they all watched or even supported and endorsed it. [passage omitted]

I have something to say about international forums, particularly the United Nations. What was the main aim of forming the United Nations after World War II? And how much of that aim has it achieved today? We think the recent events have really shown that the United Nations is redundant, and that the big powers rule the world and not the United Nations. That is, the United Nations acts as a tool in the hands of the big powers, not as an organization to which its members are equal. That is, the wishes of the big powers prevail in that organization, not laws, regulations, approvals. Their actions have made that quite clear.

Every day they give some sort of green light to the Serbs and keep the Muslims under restrictions, embargoes, and blockades. They do not even have the means to defend themselves. Where in the world does it seem natural and logical for a group of people to be banned from defending themselves and for another bunch to be armed more heavily everyday and be told, go ahead; but in the language of diplomacy, one understandable by those who know it.

They have really disgraced civilization, humanity, and human rights with their actions. [passage omitted]

The open court dealing with the embezzlement case involving a branch of the Saderat Bank is fortunately doing its job properly in an open and transparent manner. You are all in touch with what is going on and the press have widely reflected the proceedings.

There are, however, a few points which I should mention. Firstly, this case was brought forward when the old system was still in force, while the actual trial is taking place under the new system.

This means to say that all the legal proceedings, such as compiling the paperwork and issuing affidavits, etc. were carried out under the old system, where the Tehran prosecutor followed the case up and got it to the stage that it is today. Later on — that is after the implementation of the new system — the actual trial began on the basis of the rules of the new system; that is to say we no longer have a prosecutor. [sentence as heard]

You might see some observers present in the court, but they are not prosecutors. They are observers representing the Tehran judicial office, and they have to obtain the judge's permission before putting any debate forward. This is because according to the new laws, the judge is in charge of the case, but nonetheless, there are no legal impediments to observers attending the court sessions.

Some ask why there are trial session only once a week, if the file is complete then trial sessions should come one after the other without any delays between them. I deem it necessary to mention that this is quite normal and there is no legal ban on it. Also I should mention that we are investigating the matter using a new system. If there are any new issues to be investigated — which we have had in the past — out of what is said by those accused or their defendants, then it is the duty of the head of the court to continue his investigation until he can reach a definite point. The time between trial sessions is due to the investigations being carried out in this new system, and there is no problem with that.

I should also emphasize here that trials are independent in every sense of the word. No-one can exert any kind of pressure on them. Such a thing has not happened in the past and it shall not happen in the future either. We are proud of our Islamic system for having a very satisfactory independent judicial system. [passage omitted]

Sometimes we see people outside the court chanting slogans. For example: They should be executed. When such a thing takes place we close the court and say that the judge should not even investigate the matter because such slogans may affect him. Or the opposite, outside the court people chant: They should be freed. In such a case we also say that the trial should end and resume when the chanting of slogans came to an end and the slogans of they should be freed and they should be executed are no longer chanted. Then a judge can act freely, independently, and according to the evidence at hand and the law and investigate the matter and make a ruling which is the rule of God and the rule of law. No-one should be able to exert the least pressure on the case.

That is why you see some detailed cases take time. Some ask why they take so long, why do you allow things to take so long? Why do you not mention everything?

Very well, we cannot mention everything at all times. Basically we have to wait until a case comes to the court and then we can let everything out. [passage omitted]

You have already heard about this, but I think it is better if I repeated it here. All the press write that 123 billion tumans have been embezzled. When talking about the case people say 123 billion tumans have been embezzled. Embezzlement has a legal meaning and an informal understanding.

Every kind of illegal withdrawal of funds is tantamount to embezzlement as far as legal concepts are concerned, but in common law concepts, embezzlement means misappropriation [heyf va meyl]. Misappropriation means taking and spending money, it means it has been spent and it is gone. Embezzlement is withdrawal of funds illegally — the motive behind it may be misappropriation or it may not.

The issue of 123 billion tumans — and I have already, before the court started its sessions, explained this once before here, that from the moment when the inspector of the bank realized what had happened, the missing sum in question was 6.5 billion. And before anyone got to know, before it was announced and followed up, steps started being taken to retrieve this money so that both the money could be retrieved and the necessary measures taken to afford protection to public funds until all the money was recovered. Just as it was done for the money, the buildings, institutes and even other places under the charge of other people which these embezzlers came to control through their contacts, were taken away from them and safeguarded. This means that the 6.5 billion tumans which was missing was retrieved. But the 123 billion tumans — firstly, a single bank branch does not keep such a sum in one place — this was money circulating over several years.

The expectation was raised amongst the people that yes, 123 billion tumans worth of funds from the Saderat bank was withdrawn, spent, misappropriated. This is not so. As the person in charge of the judicial system I say that even the amount of 6.5 billion has been retrieved, the issue has ended and the trial — because the crime involved a gang and because it had an adverse effect — is being investigated from the legal and penal points of view. But it is not the case that they took 123 billion tumans and spent it. Fortunately, one of the lawyers referred to this issue during his remarks but the point has not been explained properly. The reason why I am saying all this is because I do not want people to entertain false expectations and to then say: Why has the judicial system not done the right thing? Public expectation should be in accordance to ... [pauses] Firstly, the facts should be clarified for the public and the judicial system should explain it and then, naturally, action will be taken in accordance with what the law and what God dictates. [crowd chants in support]

Please, let me continue, there isn't much time left. God willing, the open court session investigating the crash of the Fokker aircraft will start work tomorrow in Esfahan. I want to announce from this platform that all those who are interested can attend the court or follow the case in the media. Naturally, the presiding judge will abide by the letter of the constitution in this case.

Although there is very little time left, I feel it necessary to speak about one more issue briefly. The Islamic Republic of Iran was attacked by its enemies from all sides following the announcement of its Islamic existence and it defended itself. They imposed an eight-year war on it and it defended itself. The monafeqin [hypocrites, derogatory term referring to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] started attacking it and caused it a lot of trouble, but it defended itself. They created a lot of problems for it day after day but it continued to defend itself — it emerged from each of these attacks stronger, more independent, more intelligent and more courageous. They imposed an economic blockade against it, and you saw that it managed to stand on its own two feet.

Now I know that the Friday prayer podium may not be the right place to mention this but you heard about the Total agreement. Well, a European country, a European company came along and took the place of a U.S. company. Mr. Clinton did not expect this at all. He thought the Europeans would help him a bit, or he thought that the Europeans would not, at least, take a stance against him. But they have stood up to him. A huge French oil company came along and signed a deal in place of a U.S. company which was banned from doing so as a result of Mr. Clinton's orders.

Our country has reached a stage in which the U.S. blockade cannot harm us. We are at a stage when the Islamic Republic of Iran can solve the internal differences of Tajikistan honorably. A country that had lost everything before accepting the cease-fire, a country that had devoted everything to the war, today has everything. It is at the zenith of its power in every sense of the word.

Economic terrorists imagined that they could bring down the government. The strong government remained steadfast and with the decisions of the Council for the Discernment of Expediency, it confronted them and controlled the situation.

The system has passed through all those stages and reached a stage when it can be trusted, it is strong.

And heading this system is a unique personality, an able and lofty guardian of the cause, a great source [of emulation], His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God extend his noble leadership over us. [crowd chants in support]

He is taking care of this system very carefully. He is guarding this system against any plot from corner of the world.

Now I don't understand — I am sorry if I have taken your time — I don't understand why, I don't know what has happened that naive friends and astute enemies have started attacking this system with everything at their disposal. This is happening everywhere, in the media, in meetings, from various podiums. They are doing this because they could not do anything to the system. They can see that the system is now strong, it has implemented a five-year plan successfully and the effects of the second plan are gradually becoming felt in society. This is why they are attacking this system.

One of them brings up the issue of the guardianship and authority. Who the hell are you to talk about these issues? Who gave you the right to discuss these issues? And then they say there is no freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They do the worst things, the commit the most rude acts, no body stops them and then they tell us there is no freedom. If you want to talk about guardianship and authority, you go to the classroom, this is an issue of study for students and not for ordinary people. This is confronting the system, you are doing this in order to confront the system. Anyone who thinks of anything just comes out with it or writes it down. They have no respect for this system. Where in the world do they have personalities like this? Proud, holy, caring, and deserving individuals are working for this system.

Everyday they question someone's ability or personality. Now I am not saying there are no flaws in this system; in my own place of work, I never say the judicial branch is free from faults. However, I can claim that the judicial branch in the last few years has done over 50 years of work. And when you see just one weak point in the branch, you attack it in such a way to make people think nothing has been done by the judicial system. It is exactly the same in the executive and legislative branches and in every ministry. But everyone is working hard, the image of the country is really an honorable one, the country is growing rapidly. And then anyone who feels like it says: They cannot stand on their feet. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Assures World Bank Team on Karachi

BK2007104795 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Jul 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad — Without underplaying the ground situation in the country's commercial capital, President Farooq Leghari has assured the visiting World Bank team that Karachi will soon be peaceful with conducive business and investment environment.

The president, according to official sources, has expressed his optimism about the outcome of the recently-introduced administrative measures coupled with political dialogue with the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] for restoring peace to Karachi. The presidential assurance had come during the World Bank delegation's call on him on Tuesday [18 July] at Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential residence]. The World Bank delegation, currently on a two-day annual and postbudget visit to Pakistan, is headed by Vice President of the World Bank for Asia Joseph Wood. The other members of the delegation included Paul Isenman, Director South Asian Region, Sadiq Ahmed, Chief Resident Mission World Bank and Ms Lorene Yap, Chief of the Country Operations.

The visit of the World Bank delegation, said official sources, has gained added significance because of the current law and order situation in Karachi where sponsors of private power generation projects are reluctant to start their projects.

According to one highly-placed source, Joseph Wood had raised the issue of Karachi in the context of deteriorating investment climate. However, he said, the president informed the delegation that the government [govt] is taking necessary administrative measures and has also started the political dialogue to restore peace and normalcy to the city in order to create conducive environment for investment and business activities.

"The World Bank will continue to give its support and assistance to its development plans and programme as it appreciates the economic and fiscal policies of the govt," Wood said.

The president also informed the delegation that the government is pursuing a successful strategy for improving the GDP growth rate of Pakistan. "Simultaneously, the government is trying to reduce the budgetary deficit."

He said the government is increasing revenue collection and reducing expenditure by reprioritisation and focussing on specific sectors. "The private sector in Pakistan is also being encouraged to have greater participation and more meaningful contribution in the economic development," the president told the bank delegation. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Comments on Peace Talks, Other Issues

BK2307105095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Jul 95 pp 1,13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (APP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in an interview with Asiaweek, has expressed her confidence that as her government has been able to deal with narcotics, with Arab 'terrorists', with sectarianism, it will be able to address the problem of Karachi.

The latest issue of the Hong Kong based weekly has displayed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's photograph on its cover page.

The magazine said, few leaders are granted a second chance. Benazir Bhutto became the first woman to lead a Muslim state in 1988 and ousted two years later. In October 1993, her Pakistan People's Party swept national polls, and she returned triumphantly to power. Asiaweek's correspondents spoke to her about Pakistan's problems for one hour during her recent state visit to Malaysia [sentence as published] Excerpts:

Q: Even as your government opens talks with the Altaf Group, violence continues unabated in Karachi. What are the prospects for peace?

A: There are two different issues here. One is about the militancy of an ethnic group in Karachi, and the other about its relevance to Pakistan's economic future. Pakistan is a country of 125 million people. Less than 12 million of those live in Karachi and only parts of Karachi have been affected by the violence. So one must look at things in proportion. While it is unfortunate and indeed saddening that killings have taken place in Karachi, our economy is growing. Last year it grew by more than 4 per cent and this year we expect even higher growth. Our exports grew more than 15 per cent last year. Karachi is just one of many industrial cities in Pakistan.

Until now there has not been a political debate, but we have started that debate. Our conditions are that Altaf group should surrender their weapons and renounce terrorism. If they do so they can join the political mainstream. But if they insist on violence, then their cadres will have to spend their lives underground, separated from their families and be killed in shootouts with the police.

Q: Has your government been pressured by the Army to enter into talks and make concessions?

A: The military is fulfilling its constitutional obligations. All political decisions are taken by the government. We have taken the decision ourselves to invite Altaf Group for talks. We had never closed our doors to a dialogue. We are ready to talk with anyone. My predecessor Nawaz Sharif sent the Army to Sindh because civilians were no longer able to control the situation. But we have not done that. We don't want to involve the military in internal security duties. We want them to carry out their professional duties to safeguard the territorial border.

Q: Will you personally talk with Altaf Hussain?

A: He has been charged with kidnapping, torture and murder. We do not believe that it is advisable to talk with him in the initial stage. If he is innocent, as he claims, he should come back and face a trial. His No. 2 man, Azim Tariq, called him a fascist and he (Altaf) had him killed. We have just arrested the people who were involved in that murder. They have described in graphic detail how he (Altaf) ordered the murder and how it was carried out. We have now asked Interpol to arrest him and extradite him to Pakistan. But if the process of negotiations lead to peaceful conditions and confidence is built and peace is maintained and sustained, the government could review its position vis-a-vis Altaf Hussain.

Q: Is the country on the verge of becoming ungovernable?

A: No. Pakistan is very much governable. Our budget deficit has come down from 8 per cent of the GDP to 5.6 per cent and is expected to fall further over the next year. Our foreign exchange reserves in two years have gone up from $300 million to $2.7 billion. This demonstrates how representative government and good economic management can dramatically turn around the country.

The military in Karachi is a situation that I inherited from my predecessors. It is not the only problem I inherited. There was sectarianism, especially in Punjab, and we have cracked down hard on that. In North West Frontier Province we inherited Arab militants and terrorists who were destabilising other countries. Most of them have been forced to leave our soil after the extradition treaty we signed with Egypt. We had a drug problem. Narcotics barons used to be elected to legislative assemblies and they dictated the political agenda. We have made the biggest hauls of narcotics in our history. We have jailed some of the dealers, and extradited some of them. We have warlords moving into the cities with private armies. We have driven most of those from our cities. Today most of our cities are weapons-free.

Q: How about Karachi?

A: Yes, Karachi too. Just as we have been able to deal with narcotics, with Arab terrorists, with sectarianism. I am confident that we will be able to address this problem in Karachi too.

Q: Is your government prepared to grant any form of autonomy to Karachi?

A: Pakistan has a Constitution under which provinces have autonomy. We are not about to preside over the division of provinces, which could lead to the division of Pakistan. If MQM lay down their arms and become part of the (political) mainstream, we can talk with them about their grievances.

Q: Are relations with US on a more even keel after your trip to Washington in April?

A: For decades, Pakistan and the United States have had a very close relationship. When relations between our two countries were strained and Pakistan was on the brink of being declared a terrorist state, it made many of us uncomfortable. We have made a lot of advances on the drugs issue. We have worked closely in cracking down on terrorism. Now we are working on issues such as child labour and intellectual property rights.

However, the one area where there was divergence was on the issue of (nuclear) non-proliferation, Pakistan is committed to non-proliferation, but has always said that in view of the Indian threat to us, there should be a regional or global effort to address this issue. We are working together on a multilateral solution of the proliferation question, and as soon as an agreement is reached, the last irritant in Pakistan-U.S. relations will go.

Q: Will Pakistan ever explode a nuclear device?

A: We are committed to non-proliferation. In the 1960s my father went to the UN and cautioned the world that if India were allowed to explode a nuclear device, it would open the gates to proliferation on the sub-continent. Unfortunately the warning went unheeded. India detonated a device in 1974 and Pakistan had to start its peaceful nuclear programme. As far as we are concerned, we are in principle committed to non-proliferation. We do have certain knowledge, but unless our security is at stake, we do not intend to translate that knowledge into anything.

Q: If Israel and the PLO can work out a solution on Palestine, why can't you resolve the Kashmir issue with India?

A: We are prepared to talk to India about solving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with international law, but India insists that Kashmir is part of the Indian Union and is not prepared to talk. We have proposed mediation and every time we meet we say adopt the U.N. resolutions, and they turn around and say Kashmir is part of India. So they have repudiated all efforts to talk.

We are not giving any weapons or military support to Kashmiris, as India alleges. We believe there should be a plebiscite in accordance with UN resolutions, giving Kashmiris a clear choice whether they wish to be with India or with Pakistan. But we fear that if the rules of the game are changed for Kashmir, then many other states that had the option of acceding to either India or Pakistan might demand the same right and opt perhaps for independence, and that might lead to the unravelling of the sub-continent. For the sake of India's unity and ours, we think the solution to Kashmir lies in a plebiscite.

Q: What can Pakistan learn from East Asia?

A: During the Cold War period, strategic compulsions dictated that Pakistan be a front line state in the battle against communism and be a recipient of large amounts of foreign aid. That period has ended, and if our economy is not to fall by the wayside, it is important for us to reshape it. To that end, we have devised a policy that Pakistan should look toward East Asia — a region of growth. As part of the Looking Eastward strategy I have travelled to several Southeast Asian countries. We are encouraging foreign investors to put their money in Pakistan.

MQM Presents 'Peace Formula' in Continued Talks

BK2407025595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The fourth round of talks between the government and the Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM] to restore law and order in Karachi resumes in Karachi today. Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the Altaf Group's negotiating team, told APP in Karachi yesterday that they have presented a four-point peace formula, adding that the text of the formula will not be disclosed until the government team consults with the prime minister. Answering a question, he said the government's attitude toward the peace formula seems positive. The government team at the talks will be led by Federal Law Minister N.D. Khan.

The Karachi commissioner issued a press note last night saying that seven people were killed and two injured in violent incidents in various parts of the city yesterday.

APP, citing official sources in Sukkur, said the law and order situation in Sukkur District has improved significantly. At least 10 terrorists and bandits have been killed in the district during the last three months and a number of known criminals arrested.

Minister Views MQM 'Terrorists,' UK's 'Asylum'

BK2207114095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar visited the Khaji Ground in Gulbahar area of Karachi yesterday, where terrorists of the [Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM]-Altaf group used to kill opponents by using the worst methods of torturing. He expressed his satisfaction that this ground has now been thoroughly combed and flushed out from the terrorists by the law enforcing agencies and the people of the area heaved a sigh of relief. He also saw Hawwa Eye Hospital, which was converted by the terrorists into a human slaughter house where they used to torture opponents.

The interior minister said it was amazing that the leader of the opposition has been supporting a person who is behind the heinous crimes against his own nation. He also regretted that Britain, which claim to be the champion of human rights and democracy, has provided political asylum to Altaf Hussain.

According to an official press note issued in Karachi, seven people were killed and four injured in different incidents of violence in the city yesterday. One vehicle was set ablaze.

Daily Details Police Operation Launched in Karachi

BK2207101595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — About seven persons were held while weapons were recovered in large quantity when police and Rangers cordoned off the Gulbahar area of District Central on Friday [21 July].

This joint police-Rangers operation started in the wee hours while continued till filing of this report. As many as 1,100 jawans [members] of police and Rangers took part in [the] operation.

The severely affected area of Khaji ground was surrounded from where some 100 bodies have so far been found lying since last months. It is reported that law enforcing agency had the information about 'terrorists' who were hiding in the area.

Deputy Commissioner [DC] Central along with SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Central officials of Rangers and a team of journalists paid a visit of the scene.

According to DC Central material which are used in bomb, a large quantity of arms and other destructive materials were recovered from a house in Jehangirabad.

Some residents informed that house-to-house search continued till late Friday. "The personnel of Rangers and police were searching the terrorists. They also picked some youths but later released after interrogation."

Latest reports said that siege of Pak Colony was also started after intensive firing in Bismillah area of the colony.

AFP adds: The operation was mounted after reports that fighters had moved into the densely populated neighbourhood, a security official said.

Residents said the armed persons had erected barricades and dug trenches to prevent troops entering narrow lanes in the district. However, officials said the security forces managed to penetrate some of the trouble spots amid sporadic gunfire.

Officials said unlike two previous operations in the eastern suburb of Orangi and the western industrial district of Korangi, there had been no pitched battles in the pro-MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Gulbahar district. No casualties had been reported.

They said some suspects had been arrested. The operation follows Thursday's peace talks between government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM). The talks are to resume on Monday.

The MQM is blamed by the government for much of the violence in Karachi where more than 2,000 people have died in ethnic and political unrest over the past 18 months.

The party attributes the bloodshed to the crackdown on the MQM and alleged lacks of government efforts to redress the Muhajir community's political and social grievances.

The MQM has been criticising the security operations in the city and its chief negotiator, Ajmal Dehlvi, Thursday reiterated that the government should refrain from the use of force.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan Friday quoted provincial governor Kamal Azfar, as saying that 'meaningful progress' in government-MQM talks was possible only after a 'descalation' of violence.

Azfar said 958 people had died in Karachis to June this year, including 108 law enforcement agents.

Editorial Views Operation

BK2407064795 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Another Karachi operation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A NEW operation in Karachi jointly conducted by the police and the paramilitary forces and aimed at flushing out the terrorists from Gulbahar in District Central, a particularly troubled locality, has led to the arrest of some MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] activists and to the uncovering of evidence of murder and torture in Khajii Ground, a former football field in the area. According to some reports the terrorists had been tipped off prior to the operation and most of them were presumbly able to escape before the area was condoned off. That may have more to do with the lack of resistance met by the 1,100-strong police and paramilitary detachments than anything else. The government, however, is likely to see the outcome as a justification for continuing with its campaign in other localities suspected of having terrorist bases. But this brings to the fore yet again the issue of a conducive environment for the on-going negotiations between the government and the MQM. The latter has sought an end to the operation while indicating that, in return, it would be willing to appeal to the people of Karachi to restore peace. The offer was reiterated Friday [21 July] by MQM's chief negotiator Ajmal Dehlavi. The government, however, has consistently maintained that the operation cleanup was directed at terroritsts and would continue alongside the negotiations. There can be no denying the need for pursuing terrorists and bringing them to justice. At the same time, however, it is imperative that some way be found to break the deadly cycle of violence in Karachi. The government may be better advised to take the MQM offer at face value and suspend the operation for the time being to ascertain if the latter is in a position to deliver. It can, subsequently, move to bring those accused of heinous crimes to book.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar has expressed his surprise at the British government's reported decision to allow the MQM leader, Altaf Hussain, to stay on in UK, indefinitely. it is perhaps time for the interior minister to drop the issue of securing the MQM leader's return from London. Even if it could be managed, it is difficult to see how this would facilitate the process of finding a solution to the Karachi issue. The government's position for some time has been that if Mr Altaf Hussain wishes to return to the country he will have to appear before the court in connection with the serious charges against him. The interior minister's attempt to go beyond this has not appeared to serve any particularly useful purpose.

Editorial Addresses 'Paralyzed' Life in Karachi

95AS0461A Karachi AMN in Urdu 5 Jun 95 p 3

[Editorial: "City's Paralyzed Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The city life in Karachi is paralyzed because of the atrocious incidents in the central district. The poor people have been besieged in their own home and are suffering from lack of food. There is a serious shortage of consumer goods. There are problems of health care because of lack of medicine in the hospital and absence of staff. The cleaning crew of the municipal committees are unable to do their duty. This has resulted in an emergence of piles of garbage and refuse. There is a danger of an epidemic spreading now. Banks, hotel, markets, and petrol pumps are closed. Water supply also is effected due to power load-shedding and, because of the unrest, it is not possible to supply water with tankers. The tanker owners have refused to supply water in any effected area. The services that were being provided as directed by the complaint section of the KESC have been suspended because of the precarious law and order situation. Unknown armed persons have been stealing transformers from various areas. They do not hesitate setting vehicles used for necessary services on fire either.

The second most effected area in Karachi is the eastern district. The wave of arson and dreadful activities has reached Rashid Minhas Road and University Road. Korangi, Landhi, Shah Raisal Colony , and Maler have already been engulfed by violent activities. Now, this has spread to the whole district. Rashid Minhas Road connects not only the central district but the whole city to the National Highway and the Super Highway. This road is considered a safe route for travel and that is why there is heavy traffic on this road all day and night. Rashid Minhas as well as University Road have also been effected by the riots that took place during the last six days. The heavily populated areas around the central district were already a target of terrorists, however, the situation in this area has further deteriorated. Thus, there is shortage of food in major part of Karachi's central district. The lack of water and electricity has resulted in a very serious situation. The people cannot travel as public transportation has been suspended. They are forced to stay in their homes. Epidemics are spreading because of filth and dirt.

Due to uncommon situation in both the districts in the city, people are moving out. However, not all people have the ability to move from one place to another.

The fact that prices of property have fallen in effected areas is another story. Still, the people are so harassed that they are selling their property at reduced prices and moving out.

A major part of the western district of Karachi has been effected by terrorism and violence. The health and safety problems in this area are also equally serious. Thus, two districts in the city have been badly effected by terrorism and this is still going on. The situation in the major portion of the third district is also very bad. Now this wave has reached the southern district. Vehicles are still being burned resulting in various companies withdrawing transportation privileges given to its employees. Incidents of taking away vehicles by force have also started since yesterday. It is believed that these vehicles will be used for terrorism. According to news reports, the police force does not have enough employees to control the situation in Karachi. This information is also effective in making Karachi residents feel even less secure. Examinations of students have been postponed for a third time. This has disappointed serious students.

This situation is destroying the city's educational, literary, social, cultural, and economic life. It is difficult to keep the relationship between one's body and soul now. The government neither admits its failure nor does it appear to do anything effective to rectify the situation. In this situation, it is the responsibility of intellectuals, scholars, poets, critics, social workers, and prominent people in various spheres of life to introduce sense in the society, save the city from destruction, and do their historic duty. This city is going through the worst period in its history. It is their duty to protect it from poisonous atmosphere.

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